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Widow's plea for bike crash witnesses



Richard Garfield

THE wife of a motorcyclist who died when his machine hit a wall near Stourbridge has made a new appeal for witnesses to come forward.

Richard Garfield, aged 47, was on his Honda CBR 600 when it crashed at the junction of Bridgnorth Road and Wollaston Road, Stourton, on August 12. His wife Emma said she was desperate to find out what happened to him.

An inquest is due to take place in the new year.

But Mrs Garfield, of Lansdown Green, Kidderminster, said no witnesses had come forward since an appeal was made. There were no other vehicles involved.

Mrs Garfield said: "It's very hard not knowing what happened. It was dry road. It was the night of the Olympics closing so there was no-one about. I am hoping to jolt someone's memory. I just want to know what happened that night."

Hospital's £2.5m bill

HOSPITAL bosses in Dudley had to spend an extra £2.5m on staff and beds because about 800 more patients needed treatment in the seven months to the end of October than in the same period last year.

New figures show 22,500 patients needed emergency medical treatment or surgery in that time – an increase of 3.6 per cent in emergency admissions year-on-year.

Trust chief executive Paula Clark said the increase was in line with national figures of 3.8 per cent.

WORK ON TARGET AT £50m SCHEME

by Heather Large

WORK has begun on the next phase of a £50million regeneration project in Stourbridge town centre.

The framework for the new Tesco supermarket is going up on the site where the old Crown Centre and Bell Street car park once stood.

And president of Stourbridge Chamber of Trade Pete Cox said he was pleased to see the building start to take shape.

It's the first change in the skyline since the rubble from the demolition work was cleared.

Contractors have been busy completing the foundations and work on the underground car park.

But now some of the structure of the new store can be seen.

Mr Cox said: "They've made good progress. Another few months and we will be able to see it come together. It's going to make a big difference to the site."

Posters advertising the opening of the new store next winter went up on hoardings at the plot last month.

Explosives
Tesco bosses have said they want the store to open in time for Christmas 2013.

Work to knock down the old Crown Centre began in March and was completed in May.

The car park was brought down using explosives on April 1.

Landmovers cleared 9,000 tons of rubble, some of which will be re-used by the builders.

The new supermarket will create 320 jobs – more than 250 people have already expressed an interest in working there.

It is part of a development which will include a new shopping centre and a town square.

Leisure centres to take on trainees

APPRENTICESHIPS are being created at leisure centres in Dudley because of a rising demand for jobs in the sports industry following the Olympic Games.

The success of London 2012 has led to more young people wanting to pursue a sports-related career, the council said.

Bosses are now looking to recruit 10 apprentices for four leisure sites in the borough.

They will start work in April and be based at centres in Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen, and The Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill.

Councillor Gaye Partridge said: "The Olympic legacy has resulted in more interest in sport. Young people want to pursue a career in the industry, hence the creation of these opportunities."

The new recruits will be trained in customer service and how to operate and maintain the facilities at the centres.

School celebrates league table success



Pedmore Primary School headteacher Bev Hartland Smith celebrates league table success with some of her pupils. The school was in the top 200 nationwide

A SCHOOL in Stourbridge emerged as the best performer in the Dudley borough when the primary league tables were published last week.

Pedmore CE Primary was also named as among the top 200 performing primaries in the country.

Headteacher Beverley Hartland-Smith said: "It's all down to team effort. We've got a superb team of staff, parents and governors who all work together."

But for the borough as a whole, the tables showed a slip down the rankings.

In the tables Dudley fell 19 places despite improving its Key Stage 2 results compared to last year.

The borough is now 118 out of 152 local authorities in the country, according to data from the Department for Education.

Increase
Education chiefs defended the SATs results of primary schools in the area.

The council's cabinet member for education, Councillor Tim Crumpton, said that despite the fall in league table places, he was pleased with the SATs results.

He said: "I think the schools have been excellent. It looks to me that we have got a good increase in English and maths, but it is not just that, we are doing better across the board."

Last year 73 per cent of Dudley pupils achieved Level 4 or above in English and maths compared with 77 per cent this year.

Pedmore CE Primary in Stourbridge was the best performing school in Dudley.

Tributes to tragic football manager



Darren Owen

TRIBUTES have been paid to a popular youth team football coach who died aged 36 after falling in his Dudley home.

Father-of-two Darren Owen, who managed Stourbridge Football Club Under-11s, was hailed for his work with the youngsters.

Assistant manager Peter Thompson said: "I don't think anyone can believe what has happened. Darren was a great man."

The side's administrator Simon Westwood said: "Darren was a great manager but most importantly a great person."

Neighbours said they thought Mr Owen fell while collecting Christmas decorations from the loft in his home. He died in Russell's Hall Hospital on December 8.

He leaves a wife Becky and children Luke and Joe. Mrs Owen said she was too upset to talk.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain opened and adjourned an inquest last week.

Fire service cuts warning

A FIRE chief in Dudley has issued a stark warning about cuts to the service in the area which includes Stourbridge.

Dudley operations commander Andy Grosvenor said cuts to the service may continue for at least another five years.

He said that although the worst of the cuts to the service were expected in the next two years, the tough times were not likely to be over then.

● Full story – Page 2

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CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	6
Memory Lane	8
Clubs	12
Reviews	16
TV	21-26
Property	28
Motoring	33

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Extra train seats as track work starts

ABOUT 10,000 extra seats on trains are being made available this weekend as work shuts the line between Stafford, the Black Country and London.

Chiltern Railways is offering extra seats because Virgin Trains will only run an hourly service from London Euston to Nuneaton and Coventry on Sunday and Christmas Eve.

The Birmingham to Scotland service will continue as usual. Passengers wanting to go between Stafford, Wolverhampton and Sandwell and Dudley will have to get off at Coventry and change trains.

Trains will run in and out of Wolverhampton and throughout the Black Country so Virgin said its passengers would not have to use buses.

But Virgin is recommending its customers get off in Birmingham, walk to Moor Street station and use the Chiltern Railways' line to go to London Marylebone.

Network Rail is spending £125 million on signalling work at Bletchley near Milton Keynes.

A spokeswoman said: "Chiltern Railways are providing over 10,000 additional seats for passengers trav-

elling on December 23 and 24. On Christmas Eve the company is advising customers to carefully check their last train time home.

"The last train leaving London Marylebone going to Stourbridge Junction will be at 8.15pm.

"The last train leaving Birmingham Snow Hill to London Marylebone will also be at 8.15pm."

Warning of more cuts to come in fire service

A FIRE chief in Dudley has warned that cuts to the service may continue for at least another five years.

Dudley operations commander Andy Grosvenor said while the worst of the cuts to the service were expected during the next two years, the tough times were not likely to be over then.

He said: "We believe there will be further cuts through to at least 2017 and we don't know what the service will look like then."

About a third of the fire service's funds come from council tax and the rest from a central government grant.

The Comprehensive Spending Review for 2011 to 2015 set out a 25 per cent cut to the grant, leaving fire services looking at a 6.5 per cent shortfall during the plan's first two years.

Meanwhile, it emerged last week that West Midlands fire service is losing six uniformed staff a month.

The service is seeing £10.2m worth of cuts between 2011 and 2013. It expects to have to make £13.5 million more cuts between 2013 and 2015, and £11.2m cuts from 2015 to 2017.

The service has had a recruitment freeze in place since 2010, and the fire authority chairman John Edwards said it was losing six uniformed staff per month through retirement and workers moving on.

Rescued

The authority has closed Halesowen fire station, lost an engine and no longer staffs Tettenhall station overnight.

The service is moving towards smaller brigade response vehicles and Mr Edwards said: "They require fewer staff but they cannot deal with larger fires. Due to safety reasons they cannot go to a house fire for example."

"In December we have already dealt with nine serious fires, where people needed to be rescued. If we hadn't been there, lives could have been lost."

He added: "People in the average council tax band don't realise we only receive £47 from their council tax, less than a pound a day. When the full extent of the cuts are announced in December we will know more but we are worried that they could be more than we are expecting. If they are we will have to look at other savings and this could be more job losses and station closures."

Couples' big day on a special date



Newly-weds Jenny and Marc Raybould



Antony Stanton and Geraldine Lausa

THERE were at least a dozen good reasons to make the 12th of the 12th a special day.

Five couples decided it was just the day to get hitched in Dudley.

Jennie Hollis and Marc Raybould, of Halesowen, and former Stourbridge man Antony Stanton and his Filipino bride Geraldine Lausa were among those who picked 12/12/12 to be their wedding day.

It was the last "triple" date for nearly a century. And, after Marc proposed to Jennie in the snow in Scotland on New Year's Day, they

picked the date for the ceremony.

"We decided in the spring that we would go for the date," said Marc, aged 39, who lives with 43-year-old Jennie in Hammersley Close, Cradley.

Reception

Marc, an IT project manager, who was brought up in Wordsley, and Jennie, who works in a human resources call centre and was originally from Spies Lane, Halesowen, invited 120 guests to their 3pm wedding and held their reception at Himley Hall, near Dudley.

Three weddings were held at Dudley Register Office in Priory Park on the special date, and two others were run by register office staff at other venues.

None could be booked for 12 noon, because it was the office's lunch break.

But, at 2pm, it was the turn of Antony, aged 58, who is a chef at Butlins in Bognor Regis, and Geraldine, 33, from Iloilo in the Philippines, to wed.

The couple met three years ago through a friend of Antony's, who is married to Geraldine's aunt.

Woman shocked by theft of locket

A THIEF broke into the home of an 80-year-old woman as she slept and stole a cherished locket.

The woman had fallen asleep in a chair at her home in Lye when a burglar broke into the flat and rifled through her possessions.

She woke when the thief walked into the front room and he ran off.

The victim went to check on her things only to find her purse and a tin containing cash and jewellery all empty on her bed and her bedroom drawers open.

Police arrived a short time later and called an ambulance to tend to the woman, who was in shock about the ordeal.

Dc Darren Reeves said: "The victim is very upset by what happened. Among the stolen goods was a locket that had great sentimental value as it contained a photo of the lady's grand-daughter when she turned 21, and a 63-year-old black and white photo of the victim with her late husband, not long after they met when she was 17."

Anyone with information about the theft which happened on December 7, should call police on 101, or Crimestoppers, anonymously, on 0800 555 111.

Firm claims a first with new system

A FIRM of solicitors claims to be one of the first in the Black Country to complete a property sale using the Land Registry's new online system.

From this month, property professionals can make quicker applications to update details held on online registers.

And QualitySolicitors Talbots, based in Stourbridge, Wolverhampton, Dudley and Kidderminster, have already made use of the new system.

Martyn Morgan, senior partner and head of conveyancing at the firm, said: "The new electronic service allows users to send and receive the majority of applications to change the register electronically rather than via the post."

He said the system could save up to five weeks in buying and selling property.

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Fairtrade hampers are boost for appeal

A STOURBRIDGE group that promotes Fairtrade produce donated two hampers for the mayor of Dudley's Christmas raffle.

Fairtrade Stourbridge, which helps shops and suppliers to stock produce for which farmers and workers get a fair price, gave items including wine, beer, tea, biscuits and toiletries to Councillor Melvyn Mottram.

Hampers were raffled at the annual mayoral coffee morning at the Council House, Dudley.

Proceeds from the raffle will go to Diabetes UK, Stourbridge; Dudley and District Support Group, and Dudley Stroke Association.

Councillor Mottram said: "Supporting Fairtrade is really important to Dudley Council and to me personally."

"By taking just one small step such as switching to Fairtrade tea we can each make a difference to producers across the world and help them invest in their communities, giving them access to the things we take for granted."

"Fairtrade Stourbridge do wonderful work to promote Fairtrade and I'd like to thank them for their generosity in providing the hampers for my Christmas raffle."

Pupils use artwork to beat abuse

PUPILS in the Wyre Forest district and Worcestershire villages near Stourbridge are pledging to fight physical and verbal abuse.

These Hands Are Not For Hurting is a campaign which has been launched by West Mercia Police, children's charity Barnardo's, the ContinU Trust consortium of schools in the Wyre Forest and Hagley, and the Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership.

Students and staff at high schools in Wyre Forest and Hagley are putting their handprints in paint and then on to material to form a huge piece of artwork.

The artwork, which will eventually be about 10 metres long, will go on show at the Piano Building in Kidderminster.

Firm's £2m sub project nears completion



Chris Kelly, middle, with Richard and Robert Holland in front of part of the crane

A SPECIALIST heavy engineering business in Kingswinford is looking forward to completing the biggest project in its recent history – a crane for use with nuclear submarines.

TM Specialist Engineers in Oak Lane, will have been working on the £2 million order for Babcock International and Devonport Royal Dockyard for more than 12 months when they finish it in the new year.

The RAH (Reactor Access House) crane will be used in the de-commissioning of nuclear submarines.

Sales manager Richard Holland said it

was a class one nuclear structure. That means there is no higher standard. Our work is the pinnacle of engineering quality," he added.

The 37-tonne, 50ft-high crane will be assembled in the yard at the end of January before delivery to the customers.

Machining

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly was told about the project when he visited the company earlier this month.

He had heard about TM's work in making the critical end plates for the Large

Hadron Collider at CERN in Switzerland.

Mr Holland, son of managing director Robert Holland, said that all the parts for the crane were built at the Oak Works.

TM was founded in 1948 by Mr Holland's grandfather Robert Holland and has always been based at the Oak Works.

The company which employs about 50 people, specialises in design, heavy steel fabrications, large part precision machining, and machine building.

The firm is hoping to take on four apprentices in the coming months.

Ballot boxes ready for the people to have a say on tax

BALLOT boxes have been rolled out across Dudley borough to encourage residents to have their say in a debate about whether they would prefer extra taxes – or cuts in services.

Dudley Council is carrying out its biggest ever consultation to answer questions on the issue. Ballot boxes and survey forms have now been placed in libraries, leisure centres and park activity centres right across the borough, including Stourbridge.

Residents are being given the options of a weekly rise of 43p (2 per cent), 75p (3.5 per cent) and £1 (4.6 per cent).

The council says that, if council tax does not increase from next April, £29 million savings will be needed, on top of the £30 million cuts over the last two years.

People taking part in the survey can also indicate which services they most want to protect, including refuse and recycling collections, child protection and older people's services.

Councillor Pete Lowe, cabinet member for finance, said: "This consultation is about listening to local people and we want to make it as easy as possible for people to have their say."

Delivers

"The ballot boxes are now in around 30 sites and we hope people will take a couple of minutes to take part."

"Dudley Council delivers more than 800 services to local people and the scale of the choice and the tough decisions before us can not be underestimated."

"We feel it's vital to embark on a wide-spread public consultation."

The consultation survey features a table which shows the impact various council tax options could have on different services.

As well as the leaflet forms with the ballot boxes, the consultation can be done online at dudley.gov.uk or at the council's Dudley borough Facebook page or via twitter @dudleymbc. Consultation will run to the end of February.

Charity's cat food plea

CAT charity Central Cat Rescue is appealing for food donations. The charity looks after and helps to rehome dozens of cats, and organisers need tinned food to help offset running costs. To help, either ring 0784 7360784 or drop donations off at 3 Oriel Drive, Wolverhampton, WV10 6LJ.

Shoe-ing their festive spirit



Pupils at King Charles I School have taken part in the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal which sends out presents to those less fortunate

KIDDERMINSTER school pupils have been collecting toiletries and essentials for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal.

Every year students at King Charles I School help needy people around the world. Assistant headteacher Stuart Arch said: "The appeal sits well within the Active Citi-

zenship curriculum which is promoted across the school.

"It is an opportunity for students to make links with children around the world. Students from years 7 to 13 took part, increasing the total by 60 per cent on last year, and there was a competitive buzz around the school."

NEWS in brief

Firm tells of its Estonia contract

A MANUFACTURING firm has shared its success in securing a new export order with the mayor of Dudley during a visit.

Horizon Conveyors Ltd, in Halesowen, welcomed the mayor, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, as part of his tour of Dudley borough's businesses.

The firm, in Hayseach Road, manufactures conveyor equipment, and has a deal to supply equipment to Estonia.

Councillor Mottram said: "I am passionate about local industry and engineering."

Hospice makes appeal for help

A BLACK Country children's hospice is appealing for help at Christmas.

Director of care Emma Aspinall said: "It costs £750 a day per bed to care for children at Acorns."

"We hope that people will help us raise vital funds to give children and families the care and support they need."

People can help Acorns by shopping at its stores in Stourbridge, Kingswinford and Halesowen, or by visiting its online shop.

Ambulance chiefs in Twitter drive

THE West Midlands Ambulance Service is on track to have 6,000 followers on Twitter before Christmas.

The service has launched a drive to find the extra 127 followers it wants on the social networking site.

Chiefs use the Twitter page to provide public health information to followers.

Store planned for old car wash site

A PLAN to demolish a car wash in Brierley Hill and replace it with a convenience store has been approved. Dudley Council gave the go-ahead to the planning application for the shop in High Street, Pensnett. Commercial Development Projects has not yet revealed who will take over the new store.

Go-ahead for cafe

A FORMER funeral home in Halesowen will be converted into a cafe and hot food takeaway. Planning permission has been granted for a change of use for the unit in Halesowen Road. The proposals were approved by Dudley Council's planners.

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NEWS

THE BEST
OF PETER
RHODES

LET me start by wishing all the readers (even the awkward-squad ones) a merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

□□□□□□□□

THE little boys and girls slaughtered in the Connecticut school massacre were human sacrifices on the altar of America's obsession with guns. The US Constitution allows its citizens to possess weapons in order that an efficient militia can be maintained – in other words to let the people fight off foreign invaders. The reality is that no American citizen has fired a shot at a foreign invader in the US mainland for 200 years. Yet over the past two centuries gun-toting Americans have killed hundreds of thousands of their fellow Americans. They will continue to do so until they realise that in a modern democracy having lethal weapons in the home is not a civil right, nor a guarantee of liberty but the mark of the beast.

□□□□□□□□

YET America is a democracy. If it had the political will it could introduce gun control tomorrow. It chooses not to do so. We can only conclude, with some horror, that it considers the occasional slaughter of its children to be a price worth paying for the right to keep an assault rifle in the bedroom. And the truly terrible thing is that some of those whose own children have died in the endless succession of massacres believe that, too.

□□□□□□□□

IT USED to be said, in the days of music halls, that the Devil had all the best tunes. At this time of year, as the air fills with much-loved carols, it may seem the Almighty has all the best tunes. And then I went to a carol service where the choir sang two hits from The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992), Thankful Heart and It Feels Like Christmas. Believe me, The Muppets have all the best tunes.

□□□□□□□□

THE choristers in question were all elderly gentlemen. Imagine a Muppet choir made up entirely of Staters and Waldorfs and you get the picture.

□□□□□□□□

OUR changing language. Lib-Dem leader Nick Clegg on the success of the Coalition: "On the whole I hope it will actually surprise on the upside." No, I haven't a clue what it means either. Perhaps Clegg would be a natural as a scriptwriter for Ken Dodd. "What a lovely day, missus. What a lovely day for tossing a pancake blindfolded and getting a surprise on your upside."

□□□□□□□□

I HAVE bought an old Volvo. I knew this day would come. Victoria Woods defined the onset of middle age as the moment you pass a display of Scholl sandals and think: "Mmm, they look comfy." The Volvo is very comfy, and very sensible. It also has a little pocket under the sun visor where you can keep that thing you're always losing. I wonder how many of my readers are suddenly thinking: "The sun visor, that's where I left it."

□□□□□□□□

REJOICE, for scientists have rediscovered the Mediterranean oil beetle. It was thought to have become extinct 100 years ago but has been found in the south of England. It is a big beetle, measuring about one inch. Which reminds me of something I really should put on my Xmas list. Slippers.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Crash car ploughs into school railings

A WOMAN had to be cut from a car following a smash outside a school.

The driver, in her 40s, was released by firefighters after the Vauxhall Corsa she was driving ended up embedded in railings outside Woodsetton School at the junction of High Arcal Drive and Fir Tree Drive, Dudley.

The car narrowly missed a

lamp-post before crashing into the railings on Friday at around 8.30am.

The injured woman was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital after being cut free by fire crews.

No-one was injured in the other cars, a Citroen people carrier and a Kia.

Traffic tailbacks built up in the

area, but the scene was cleared by 10.30am.

Fiona Howard, aged 29, of High Arcal Drive, said: "We heard a screeching noise and thought it was an accident."

Andy Clay, of Dudley fire station, said: "The woman was trapped. We removed her from the car and she was taken to hospital."



Two of the cars involved in the crash

Threat to business as thieves steal van

THIEVES stole a catering van from outside a Brierley Hill karate club, putting a new business in jeopardy.

Dee Williams, of Tipton, had bought the van for £2,500 and planned to start selling Caribbean-style food.

But raiders struck last week. They broke through the gates at Inspire Karate, in Canal Street, and towed the van away from where it was parked.

Mrs Williams said she was "gutted" by the theft of the white van which had on it the words DB's Bostin Bites hot and cold food, the name of the previous business it was used for, in red letters.

It was due to be given a makeover before the launch of the new venture next month and contained a cooking equipment and appliances including a fridge, freezer and hotplate.

Mrs Williams said: "I had just bought the van and the man I had bought it from was storing for me.

"But before I had chance to move it, it was stolen. I don't know what I am going to do now.

"I have been learning to cook Caribbean food because it is something I enjoy, and there are not many other businesses like it."

New jobs at closed unit

A CLOSED cash and carry in Kidderminster will be reopened as an outdoor leisure store, creating around 50 new jobs in the town.

Go Outdoors will move into the large shop unit in Hoo Farm Industrial Estate after approval was given by Wyre Forest Council.

The store was last used by Booker Cash and Carry. At a council planning committee recently, members voted to give the application the go-ahead without any debate. Officers had recommended approval to councillors.

Views on booze

PEOPLE in the Wyre Forest district are being invited to take part in a survey about alcohol.

Anyone interested in taking part in the "it's time to talk about drinking" survey, organised by Worcestershire County Council, can do so at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/talkdrink.

Town's housing office staff are on the move

A HOUSING office in Dudley borough is to move into the town's library next month.

About 14 front counter staff at the Halesowen office in The Queensway will be relocated under the plans which will also see staff from the Citizens Advice Bureau move into the library, in the Cornbow Centre.

It follows similar moves in Brierley Hill and Stourbridge. Housing office staff in those towns have already moved into their local libraries.

In Halesowen the library will undergo a £50,000 revamp as part of the changes to create a one-stop shop for housing, library and advice services.

A new housing reception will open on January 9, for officers to provide assistance on general housing matters and homelessness on Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

There will also be more computers available for customers to access information.

Councillor bosses say the new location in the library means the service is now centrally placed with easy access from the bus station and improved facilities for wheelchair users and families with pushchairs.

Dudley's housing chief Councillor Khurshid Ahmed said: "We have taken the decision to relocate Halesowen housing services within the Halesowen Library which has presented an opportunity to co-locate with Citizens Advice Bureau. The benefits of this move will bring a number of advantages to our customers.

"We have already relocated two area offices into local libraries and have found that this has been very well received by users. Customers have found it very useful to have a number of services under one roof."

Tenants have been advised the new office will not be accepting payments.

"We are always looking for new ways to engage with residents and give them direct access to the information they need."

Dudley Council Plus is now on Twitter at @Dudley-Plus

But now residents will be able to request information and report issues including fly-tipping, potholes, and opening times for leisure centres and libraries, using Twitter.

Councillor Pete Lowe, cabinet member for finance and ICT services, said: "More and more people are using Twitter to communicate with the council and a convenient dedicated channel for reporting and requesting information is good news for people."

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Rhys gets repair firm started



Car mechanic Rhys Davies who has set up his new business, FastFit, in Lye

A MECHANIC is celebrating opening his own car repair business in the Stourbridge area.

Rhys Davies has faced struggles with banks, insurance companies and mounting costs to fund his business.

But he now managed to scrape together the cash to set up his own garage to support his young family.

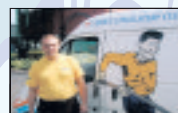
Mr Davies, of New Street, Kingswinford, was forced to go it alone after failing to find

work. Despite applying for more than 300 jobs and spending £200 posting out his CV, the 20-year-old was at his wits' end.

But he set up his FastFit garage, in Dudley Road, Lye, in the past few weeks and is hoping the venture will take off.

Stourbridge MP Margot James heard about Mr Davies' difficulties and went to meet him to discuss what she could do to help.

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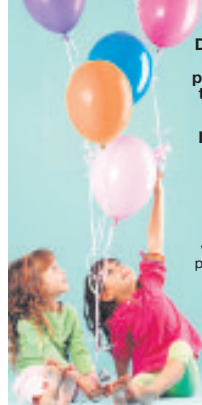
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Centre's shuttle bus for shoppers

A FREE shuttle bus service has been launched for shoppers visiting Dudley's Merry Hill Centre in the run-up to Christmas.

It will run on Saturday and Sunday from the Waterfront.

It comes as the centre introduced extended opening hours giving people the chance to shop until midnight all this week.

Merry Hill bosses say the new bus service will help to make it easier for people to visit the centre to do their Christmas shopping.

Marketing manager Kelly Reed said: "The shuttle bus will relieve the congestion that inevitably builds up at this time of year - customers can now shop til they drop, hop on the bus and be whisked back to their cars hassle-free."

"And the extended opening hours means even the most last-minute of customers will be able to get all their festive shopping done on time."

The shuttle bus runs from 9am until 8pm on Saturday and from 11am until 5pm on Sunday.

Shoppers should follow the Santa signs as they drive in.

They will be dropped off outside Merry Hill, next to Sainsburys.

Scheme to offer help in the cold

A SCHEME to ensure people stay warm during the cold weather has been launched.

The programme, run by the council in partnership with NHS Dudley and local charities, provides a variety of practical hands-on support, information and expert advice.

Anyone concerned about keeping their home warm, struggling with fuel bills or worried about keeping well during the winter can ask for help.

Staff will arrange for local volunteers to make regular checks on people who may be at risk of becoming isolated during cold weather. They can help with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking or helping with transport, if needed. The helpline is 01384 817086.

Hopes are high for jobs at planned hotel



The planned Premier Inn Hotel

THIS is the £6 million hotel which could be built on a main route into Stourbridge.

Premier Inn has lodged plans for an 80-bed hotel and Brewers Fayre restaurant. If planning permission is granted, 65 jobs would be created and the complex would open in spring 2014.

Bosses say the hotel would provide a boost for local business and tourism.

John Bates, head of acquisitions for Whitbread Hotels and Restaurants, said: "Stourbridge

has been on our target list for a long time and I am very pleased we have now submitted our planning application for a new Premier Inn hotel and Brewers Fayre restaurant in the town."

"The town centre site is an ideal location for a new Premier Inn and it is well positioned to explore the Black Country and surrounding countryside."

Our investment will create approximately 65 jobs, attract additional visitors and support key businesses in the area."

The developers said around 100 residents and businesses had already been consulted and five letters of support had been sent in.

Chairman of Stourbridge Township Council Margaret Scott has backed the proposal saying it would bring a welcome boost to the town and help to make Birmingham Street more attractive to visitors.

A planning application for the Stourbridge site has been sent to Dudley Council by Whitbread

Property and Barberry Developments.

The application said the scheme would create "an exciting gateway development for Stourbridge".

An L-shaped four-storey hotel would be built with a car park providing 122 spaces.

It would come hot on the heels of work starting on a 63-bed hotel in Dudley, which is expected to be completed in May next year and will include a ground-floor restaurant.

Karl revealed as caveman hero who scared off thugs

THIS is the Good Samaritan who stepped in to help a man who was being beaten up in Stourbridge.

Karl Stephenson was dressed as a caveman and armed only with an inflatable club, but he didn't hesitate to step in when he saw the fight in Lower High Street.

As the Chronicle reported last week, the 30-year-old tree surgeon from Hagley scared off the attackers, and got help for the victim.

His intervention was caught on CCTV and the film was released by police last week in an attempt to trace the people responsible.

The footage showed the main attacker pushing his victim to the ground and raining blows to his face and kicking him in the head.

Mr Stephenson said he had been at The Mitre Inn in Lower High Street with a group of friends on the night of the assault, October 27.

They had decided to wear fancy dress because it was almost Halloween - and he opted to dress up as a "dead caveman". The group left the pub at around 1.30am on the Saturday night, and as Mr Stephenson left, he saw the attack.

Kicked

He said: "For some reason my friends went out the front door and I went out the back. That's when I saw the man being kicked. There were three men attacking him. I wanted them to stop so I went over and asked them what they were doing."

Mr Stephenson told how one of the men then dragged the main attacker away.

"One of my friends called the police and ambulance to help the injured man."

"It was really horrible. It was one of those moments where I was thinking 'was that real?' I couldn't believe it had happened. The man was injured but I am glad he's recovering well," he said.

He said the release of the CCTV video by the police had come as a surprise.

"The first thing I knew about it was when my sister text me to say she had heard it on the radio. I couldn't believe it when I saw the video," he said.

Anyone who can help with the investigation is urged to contact police on 101.



Hero caveman Karl Stephenson, who stepped in to help out a man being attacked



CCTV shows the victim being kicked



Karl, circled, interrupts the assault

NEWS

in brief

Fitness teacher gets £5,000 grant

A KINGSWINFORD fitness teacher has earned a £5,000 award to help set up a website to help older people in the Black Country to get fitter.

Tina Lloyd, aged 35, of Crestwood Park, who runs exercise classes in Wolverhampton, is director of a social enterprise company called Fit4Life.

She aims to launch the Connect4 project.

Fit4Life has now won a "Digital Heroes" award from telephone and broadband company TalkTalk, with the prize of a £5,000 technology grant.

Superfast 4G network on way

THE superfast 4G mobile network is set to be launched in the Black Country next year.

EE will launch its 4G products and services in Wolverhampton, West Bromwich, Dudley and Walsall by March. The 4G network offers speeds up to five times faster than 3G.

It can be used on devices including the iPhone 5, Samsung Galaxy SIII LTE, iPad mini, and Huawei Mobile Wi-Fi.

Organisers look for park sponsor

AN annual park fun day in Dudley have launched a fundraising appeal to help support next year's event.

The Netherton Park fun day is the largest free event of its kind in the borough. Next year's is already being planned and will take place on July 6 around the Northfield Road park. Organisers want a sponsor for the event. To help, email friends@nethertonpark.com

Hotel's treat for elderly people

FIFTY older people were given a festive treat by a Dudley hotel, which invited them for a Christmas meal.

Darryl Holdnall, manager of the Village Urban Resort at Castlegate Business Park, hosted guests invited through Age UK Dudley.

Charity donation

A CHARITY for people with brain injuries has been given £1,650. Headway Black Country received the cash from a Lodge of the Wolverhampton and District Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

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LETTERS

Osborne needs to learn his ABC

GEORGE Osborne's Autumn Statement not only illustrates the government's reluctance to really tax the wealthy, it also reveals the extent of damage this Coalition Government is doing to our economy.

They continue to claim that our present situation is due to the previous government, but the facts tell a different story that puts Britain's position into perspective.

This government claims to be promoting British industry, yet headlines in the press that Britain's debt could be larger than that of Greece certainly doesn't help to improve confidence in

our economy. Such claims are clearly intended to maintain the image that it is all the fault of the previous government, but they undermine our recovery. The most important factor is not the amount that we owe, but the ratio between the debt and our GDP. Right up to the global banking crisis, the ratio between debt and GDP was 44 per cent. It's now about 78 per cent. That sounds like a lot, but compared to most of the 20th century it is quite small.

The difference between Britain and Greece is that our economy is much bigger and more resilient, having the ability to claw back the deficit by

increasing GDP. In fact, in terms of GDP to deficit ratio, Britain has the second strongest economy in Europe, only fractionally worse than that of Germany, despite the ratio having continually risen under this government.

In that context, continuation of austerity measures is detrimental to recovery. Every job lost, every full time post replaced by part time work reduces our GDP thus increasing the ratio of debt. It is surely now time for Plan "B", but it seems that Osborne hasn't yet got that far in learning the alphabet.

M CLIFF
Wall Heath

Mobility scooters are often a necessity

I MUST respond to Mrs. Starkey's letter - "Not a big fan of the mobility scooters".

She obviously has no experience of people who genuinely have mobility problems and need assistance to get around.

I am fortunate enough to not have to use a scooter but know people who use them, and they are not just using them for a thrill.

Mobility scooters are imperative for people who cannot walk, for whatever reason, to be independent and not have to rely on others. As Mrs. Starkey proves, not everyone in this season of goodwill is open to thinking of others and doing what they can to help. Her thoughtless comments are no laughing matter.

Mind how you go now, Mrs. Starkey and lets hope that in the future you do not need help to get around.

MRS. JEAVONS,
Kingswinford

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Stourbridge Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

E-MAIL

Stourbridge.chrons@expressandstar.co.uk

Differences in bus drivers' attitudes

ON Tuesday, December 11 my wife and I decided to get the number 1 bus from Dudley to Tettenhall Wood, just to see where it went.

As we were in the area of the bottom of the Inhedge in Wolverhampton Street, we went to the nearest bus stop. A No.1 single decker bus was at the stop as we approached it, and when we got to within a few feet of it, my wife put her arm out to indicate to the driver that we wanted to get on the bus. (I cannot walk so fast as her as I have arthritis and use a walking stick). The driver just closed his doors and drove off.

Returning from Tettenhall Wood, we broke our journey in Wolverhampton and went for coffee at our favourite coffee bar - Coffee Moments in the Mander Centre. After refreshments, we resumed our return journey to Dudley and got on to a Green Bus route number 558. The driver of this bus saw a disabled person obviously rushing to get to the bus stop in the Gornal area and stopped to allow him to get on the bus some yards before his intended stop.

The driver of the No. 1 bus must be able to identify himself. Shame on you friend.

PETER COLE, Chelford Crescent, Kingswinford

Brought up in a time of rationing

I WAS born in 1940, a hard time for all, with WWII raging, and spent the 40s and early 50s having a hard but enjoyable childhood.

Virtually everything was rationed from fuel to clothes and basic foods to sweets.

At Christmas we kids were lucky to get an apple, an orange, a few nuts and maybe a few sweets. A really special gift was maybe a new pair of shoes, or hand-me-downs. But it was a relief to throw away the old ones, with the cardboard soles.

Fast forward to 2012, and yes, kids still have an apple, but it's an Apple computer or iPod, iPad, tablet, whatever. They still have an orange, but it's probably a £300 mobile phone. So you kids had better hope we never return to the 1940s and 50s, but start to appreciate it all. A merry Christmas to you all.

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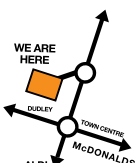
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NEWS

Sweet success for Kim as she cooks up business



Kimberley Bennett, owner of Kimmy Loves Cake, which is situated in Bewdley, who has celebrated an "amazing" first year in business

A CAKE shop in the Midlands is enjoying the sweet taste of success after celebrating an "amazing" first year in business.

Kimmy Loves Cake marked its anniversary by dishing out free goodies to customers at the shop in Load Street.

Owner Kimberley Bennett, aged 26, said the past 12 months had gone well for the fledgling business.

Until this time last year she had been selling cakes from her home, on Dowles Road, Bewdley, alongside her day job as a forensic analyst.

She decided to ditch her job, which had seen her working on mobile phone tracking cases including that of Soham murderer Ian Huntley, to pursue her passion for business.

She said: "Within two years I had got to the top of my career. It was really interesting work but I'm the type that always needs a challenge, so I decided to start my own business. I always knew I wanted a shop of my own."

"It's a difficult market and it's a tricky time to be opening any business, especially as an independent – but the last 12 months have been amazing."

Now Ms Bennett, who runs the shop with just one helper, is hoping to take on new staff in the New Year. She said: "I'd love to expand the business too but we're waiting for the right opportunity."

Thieves steal jewellery

THIEVES broke into a Kidderminster house and stole nearly £6,000 of jewellery.

They also took two laptops, gold and silver rings, bracelets and chains.

They struck at the property in St John's Avenue between 8.15am and 2pm on December 7.

Among the items taken was a Cartier silver band ring and a ladies Cartier watch with a silver strap and white square face.

Anyone with information about the burglary can contact Pc Bartlett on 101, quoting incident 387-S-071212.

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MEMORY LANE



Sunbeam cars gathered for the unveiling of a blue plaque on the site in Penn



The racing car Toodles V at Brooklands, where it broke eight world records



Where the work took place – the Sunbeam racing car workshop in 1922

Days when Sunbeam raced ahead in Grand Prix stakes

by Alec Brew

FOR more than 60 years Britain has dominated Grand Prix manufacturing, but it was not always thus.

In the early days it was French cars which led the way, and, in the days before the World Championship, it was winning the French Grand Prix which was recognised as the pinnacle of motor-racing achievement.

The first British car to win the French Grand Prix, in 1923, was made right here in Wolverhampton, in Sunbeam's Blakenhall factory, but it's designer was a Frenchman, Louis Coatalen.

He was a Breton, born on September 11, 1879, and worked for a number of French car manufacturers before arriving in England in 1900 to work for the Crowden Company, and then becoming chief engineer at Hillman in Coventry.

In 1909 he was recruited by the Sunbeam Motor Car Co in Blakenhall, to be their chief engineer, and immediately planned to enter motor-racing. He began designing purpose-built racing cars, which led to the first major triumph, a win in the 1912 Coupe de l'Auto in Dieppe, Sunbeams coming 1st, 2nd and 3rd,

eclipsing and astonishing the major European manufacturers.

In 1912 Coatalen also designed his first aero-engine a 150hp side valve V8, followed by a 225 hp V12, which he first tested in a specially-built racing car named Toodles V.

In October 1913, this car, at Brooklands, broke eight world endurance speed records in a hour and a half. There is no doubt that Coatalen was a talented, even brilliant engineer, but he was not afraid of copying others.

Devious

During 1913 Peugeot cars with twin overhead camshafts swept the board in three lithe racing, and by some devious means one of these found its way to the drawing room of Coatalen's home, Waverley House on Goldthorn Hill. Here, Sunbeam mechanics stripped it down to discover its secrets, and for 1914 Sunbeam also featured twin overhead camshafts, as did the new aero-engines he designed at the start of the War.

Sunbeam was a major supplier of aero-

engines during the War and also built more than 600 aircraft, including just one of its own design the single-engine Sunbeam Bomber.

All the engines were officially called Sunbeam-Coatalen engines, but after the War they were rather eclipsed by Rolls-Royce and Napier designs.

Coatalen turned to his great ambition, to win the French Grand Prix. The Sunbeam company merged with Darraq and Talbot and Coatalen became a Director of the resulting STD Motors.

In 1923 a Sunbeam finally won the French Grand Prix, driven by Henry Seagrave, and would have won the following year but for technical problems. Coatalen also produced three different cars to break the World Land Speed Record but Sunbeam began to experience financial difficulties, and in 1934 closed down.

By that time Louis Coatalen had returned to his native France, though he had taken British citizenship. He lived there through the War and died in 1962. He had brought great fame to the Sunbeam company, and to Wolverhampton, his adopted home for over 20 years.



Louis Coatalen , then aged 33, in 1912



Coatalen, centre, examining the Sunbeam Bomber in 1917 at the airfield in Castle Bromwich

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Shown the ropes



Pam Pedley tries out the course at Quest at Merry Hill
AGE is no barrier to adventure for some thrill-seeking older people from Dudley who braved the high ropes and ice rink at Merry Hill shopping centre.

A group from Age UK Dudley enjoyed a fun afternoon at Quest, the new adventure and entertainment area of the shopping complex.

Age UK members who normally attend exercise, IT or art classes at Merry Hill tried new experiences, such as ice-skating, nerf blasters and climbing to great heights on the high ropes course, the highest of its kind in Europe. Jenny Worwood, Springboard project co-ordinator with Age UK Dudley, said: "Our clients had an afternoon to remember filled with laughter and achievement."

One of the adventure-seekers, 71-year old Pam Pedley, said: "It was absolutely brilliant and I got such a buzz from the experience."

Another member, Alex Christie, said: "All activities were great fun, some a little more scary than others, but I was so proud I walked across one of the highest ropes."

NEWS

Police aiming to get extra powers and tackle booze

PEOPLE caught boozing on the streets in Quarry Bank face their drink being seized or even arrest under new powers being sought by police.

Officers have applied for an area which includes the High Street, Dunn's Bank and Stevens Park to become an alcohol exclusion zone. They want the zone in a bid to stamp out anti-social behaviour, which they say is blighting the lives of people who live there.

Alcohol exclusion zones already exist in town centres in Halesowen, Stourbridge, Dudley and Sedgley.

Sgt Steve Gordon said the area was facing problems of litter, noise, violence and damage to property because of people openly drinking in the streets.

He said: "Over the years quality of life in Quarry Bank has been increasingly affected by a noticeable increase in individuals and groups of people consuming alcohol in public places."

"There are now several acts of anti-social behaviour which have resulted in complaints to both police and the local authority."

"It is greatly believed that this increase of issues can be quelled by the introduction of a drinking ban in public areas of Quarry Bank." Sgt

Gordon also said the drinkers' behaviour was causing a risk to residents' health and putting a strain on local services.

He said: "Regularly there are several empty beer cans, signs of urination and glass bottles left strewn over the area. This then becomes a health hazard for people in the area as it is untidy and unhealthy."

Within the proposed zone, police will have the power to take alcohol off people. People who fail to hand it over can be issued with a £50 fixed penalty notice.

Chris Homer, co-director of electrical store Homers of Quarry Bank, in High Street, said: "We're not here in the evening, but in the mornings you see the rubbish and the empty beer cans lying around."

Dudley Council's licensing committee was to consider it this week.

by Alex Ross

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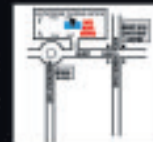
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CLUB NEWS**By Hook!
a pearl of
meeting****PENN TWG**

GEORGE Hook entertained the main guild meeting at the beginning of November talking about his family mother-of-pearl business.

It was started in 1824 and was passed from father to son, his own father worked there until he was 94.

At this time there were many mother-of-pearl industries in Birmingham making buttons, knife handles, buckles and also inlay items.

The shells were imported from Australia and Japan and the blue iridescent abalone shells came from Japan and Mexico.

He explained how a shell was cut to get the greatest number of buttons from it.

George is passionate and amusing about his work. His factory is now the only one left in Birmingham but the pearl buttons and buckles are so expensive because they are handmade that he only does special orders.

For social studies, social historian Ray Sturdy spoke on The Extraordinary Vesta Tilley. Born in Worcester in 1864 as Matilda (Tilly) Alice Powles, she was one of 13 children. Her father Harry was a china painter and was a musical tramp entertainer in his spare time.

He later became manager in Gloucester Theatre. This is where Vesta first went on stage, aged four.

After rising to the top of the bill, Vesta retired to help her husband, Sir Walter de Frece with his political career as an MP.

**Craft group centres
on tree decorating**

Guild chairman Mary Clark, left, and Margaret Beech

**SEDGLEY
EVENING
TOWNSWOMEN**

AFTER working on the wall hanging displayed at the Community Centre, the arts and craft group turned its talents to decorating a tree in Sedgley All Saints Church.

The subject was a story and the group chose The Hungry Caterpillar. Members crafted items of all the goodies consumed by the caterpillar and ended up with him as a butterfly at the top of the tree.

The Christmas party was a great success with delicious food provided by all the members. The evening ended with carol singing. The next meeting is storytelling by The Ukulele Lady on January 19 at the Sedgley Community Centre. Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Speaker's travelling tales**CANNOCK
TOWNSWOMEN**

AT the November meeting, chairman Hilda Hathaway was pleased to welcome two new members, Savi Chandy and Urmila Sathia.

A letter of thanks has been received from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham for the guild's donation of £150 to the children's unit.

Following a sponsored walk which raised £165, a

cheque was sent to the Princess Royal Carer's Trust.

Speaker for the evening was Peter Martin who gave a slide show of his travels in India and Nepal. The background music and wonderful camera work made one feel

part of the experience, giving members a real insight into the culture and daily life of the people.

The guild meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm. At St Luke's Primary School, New Penkridge Road. There is disability access and parking at the front of the building.

For further information call 01543 506347.

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Plans for town's ancient sites are given go-ahead

PLANS to rebuild a deteriorating 19th century barn in Dudley's medieval quarter have been given the go-ahead.

A nearby former municipal mortuary, yard canopy and workshop will also be knocked down as part of the redevelopment project in the town's historic Court Passage. The scheme was approved by Dudley Council's planning committee last week. Spending £64,000, the council will rebuild three of the barn's rear walls and reduce its height.

The footprint of the building will be retained to provide a reminder of the site's history.

There had been concerns about the building's poor state of repair and officers feared it was in danger of collapse.

The adjoining former mortuary will be

demolished to make way for car parking for new offices being built in the Holloway Chambers and Elizabeth House Buildings.

A total of 11 car parking spaces will be created under the plans.

Court Passage is in the town's conservation area and dates back to medieval times, once providing back lanes to nearby properties for deliveries and access to stables. The mortuary was used at the beginning of the 20th century.

Chairman of the planning committee Councillor Rachel Harris welcomed the redevelopment work.

"We have a long and worthy-of-preservation industrial past but it's important for us to have a working town centres and have buildings people want to let."

Brickworks scheme approved

PLANS for more than 100 new homes, a craft village and nursing home on the site of a historic former brickworks on the Dudley-South Staffordshire border can go ahead after the Government gave the green light.

David Wilson Homes and Weinberger have been granted outline planning permission for the development at Baggeridge Brickworks in Gospel End, Sedgley.

The developers had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against South Staffordshire Council's decision to refuse their application earlier this year. Councillors had argued the development would be too large for the

village but developers say it would boost the area's economy and attract new visitors.

A planning inquiry was held last month, and now the scheme, which includes 140 homes, 12 craft workshops, a 60-bedroom nursing home and new road access from the A463, has been approved after a planning inspector ruled it was an appropriate development.

Association

The decision signals the end of the site's long association with brickmaking which stretches back to the 1930s. During the inquiry, the hearing was told the plans go against the Black Country Core Strategy, which lays out guidelines for major building projects in the region.

But the applicants said there was a

"clear need" for new houses and a nursing home in the area.

Announcing his decision to allow the appeal, planning inspector John Papworth said the scheme would enable a previously developed site to be reused and would remove derelict buildings and land.

He said the project would include the retention of the brickworks chimney to retain "a visual reminder of the site's history". Mr Papworth said the scheme would bring many benefits such as affordable housing, care home beds and new employment benefits.

But the chairman of South Staffordshire Council's regulatory committee Councillor Brian Cox said: "We're obviously disappointed the inspector has concluded the development would provide substantial benefits."

Volunteers given boost

VOLUNTEER lifesavers have been boosted by a £5,000 grant from the charitable trust of a renowned musician and composer.

The Paul Farrer Charitable Trust has awarded the cash to Worcester & Malvern Community First Responders.

Mr Farrer, who has provided many soundtracks for TV, film and radio, said: "My charitable trust is in awe of the hard work done by the community first responders across the country."

"We are proud to support them. I hope we can inspire more people to get involved in this excellent cause."

Paws for thoughts about hungry cats



Becky Cash and Amy Burkitt make an appeal for food gifts helped by cat Meeko

GENEROUS animal lovers are rallying to provide a Christmas dinner for abandoned pets.

The Rosewood Animal Hospital, Mason Street, Coseley, has mounted an appeal for food, blankets and bedding to cope with the expected flood of creatures taken in by local charities over the festive season.

"Sadly, around Christmas time a lot of people kick pets, including dogs and cats, out on to the streets because they can't afford to feed them," said Becky Cash, veterinary nurse at Rosewood.

"So every year we appeal to local people to donate whatever they can."

Man caught growing second batch of drug

A MAN has grown a second batch of cannabis plants because he believed an earlier crop had been stolen by burglars - when in fact it had been seized by police.

Officers found 28 cannabis plants in the loft of Brian Walker's Dudley home during a police raid. They also found a full hydroponic system to grow the drug.

They took the items away and Walker, who was missing from the property, was listed as "wanted".

Then nearly three months later one of the officers returned to the house in Edward Street and found another 17 cannabis plants.

Walker, 41, was arrested and revealed he got another crop going after assuming he had been burgled. Judge Michael Dudley sentenced him on the basis he had not been aware police had been to his home. Father-of-three Walker admitted producing cannabis.

He was given an eight-month jail term suspended for a year and ordered to do 120 hours unpaid work.

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending, told Wolverhampton Crown Court his client simply did not know police had been to his home.

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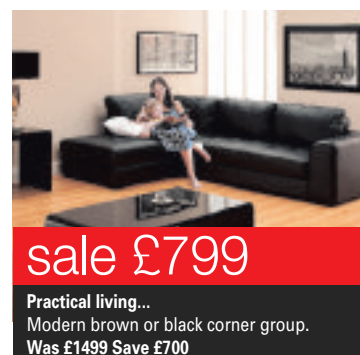
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REVIEWS

Phinn's Christmas crackers



Gervase Phinn

A Yuletide Evening With
Gervase Phinn
Town Hall, Birmingham

The Rotherham raconteur was back in Brum for one of his seasonal specials with what is a seemingly endless stream of stories, poems and observations of children, school life and the world in general.

His first offering was a poem inspired by school children's letters to a teacher on sick leave, where their attempts to comfort her through comparison with her temporary replacement, innocently ended up telling her how much the children were enjoying her absence.

Phinn regaled his audience with the innocent honesty of a young boy who

told the former Ofsted inspector, "When I am 21, you'll probably be dead."

This set the standard for further nativity-themed treats such as the tale of the Messianic baby Tammy which spoke with an American accent at the most inappropriate times and eventually ending up as the headless Jesus.

Then there was the Yorkshire lad, complete with tea towel headress who asked "Ave you any room int th'inn?" and the unfortunately named youngster Tequila who simply explained "Our crib is crap."

Phinn brought in tales of his own idyllic childhood and sentimental poetry about his mom with When You Thought I Wasn't Looking. He recalled

his own nativity disaster where he played a palm tree complete with brown crepe paper bark which soon deteriorated due to a call of nature. He had to exit stage left in his electric blue underpants carrying his paper mache coconuts.

The audience lapped up tales such as how the mayor of Rotherham's visit to a nativity play was thwarted by the Virgin Mary having nits.

Phinn also tipped in the odd bit of proselytising about the importance of teachers and the interference of government in education but also got a little preachy especially in the second, and pretty short, half of his set about the true meaning of Christmas.

Danny Farragher

Workhorse Dan has the talent to build a future

Dan Whitehouse

Birmingham Conservatoire
Wolverhampton musician Dan Whitehouse's latest outing at the Birmingham Conservatoire somehow had more of a feeling of a gathering of family and friends rather than a legitimate gig but that said Dan is a fine, maturing and determined singer/songwriter and is always worth listening to.

With a full complement of musicians at his disposal Dan started the set with You Can't Give Me Any More one of the soft ballads he does so well which was bolstered by Tom Bounford on violin and accented nicely by June Mori on the grand piano.

Dan then gave his audience a flavour of what's to come with Come Back, which will

feature on his new album due out next year. This was a more up tempo offering with a strong underbeat and was ably underpinned by the guitar playing of his fellow musician and co-producer Mike Clarke.

This was followed by perhaps one of Dan's strongest tracks the Fire of Lust which he admits is his ode to testosterone.

Three Bodies, with its almost sinister fair-ground-style undertone was inspired by a visit to Greece and is a great example of Dan's clever lyrics such as "yes she could use a little more upfront, but she's still saving up for that." Dan is a workhorse, there is no two ways about it, and he is both trying to increase his musical profile and work on his stage presence and act, and there is no doubt he has the talent.

Danny Farragher

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NEWS

Action on lollipop dangers

FIFTEEN drivers have been reported for failing to stop for lollipop crossing patrols in the Black Country.

A crackdown has been launched on drivers who flout the rules at school crossings in Walsall. Wardens there have also complained of being shouted at by drivers and even of having missiles thrown at them.

In Dudley, there have been reports of seven drivers flouting the rules at crossings.

Cameras have been installed on lol-

lipop poles in a bid to deter badly-behaved drivers.

In Sandwell, there have been three cases of drivers failing to stop in the past 12 months, and in Wolverhampton, one.

Walsall regeneration chief Councillor Adrian Andrew said: "I was shocked to hear what some wardens have to put up with. As I understand it, many drivers ignore the patrols and are actually driving over crossings while parents and children are being crossed over."

Dudley's transport chief Councillor Judy Foster said the vast majority of drivers obeyed the rules.

But she added: "From October 2011 until the end of term 2012 we had one incident. However since start of term this year until now we have had seven incidents."

One motorist has been prosecuted. Sandwell neighbourhoods chief Councillor Ian Jones, said the council had a zero-tolerance approach to the issue.

Stardom beckons for shop girl Beth



Beth Sherburn at work at the perfume counter in Merry Hill and, inset, as she looks in one of her promotional pictures

SINGING while she worked behind a perfume counter at the Merry Hill shopping centre has put Beth Sherburn on the way to stardom.

The 21-year-old was at work in Debenhams, and singing along to a Michael Buble's Christmas song.

Little did she know that music producer John McLaughlin, one of the men behind such acts as Busted, Girls Aloud and Take That, was shopping nearby buying perfume for his wife.

He approached her to compliment her on the sound of her voice, and ended up inviting her to work alongside him in his studio.

Beth, who lives in Sedgley has now signed a contract with Purple Circle Records and is set to release a cover of Ordinary World, the Duran Duran song, as her first single, in January.

Beth said the record contract and meeting John McLaughlin was a dream come true.

The lucky meeting happened on November 28.

"He was just rushing in to get his wife a present so I was very lucky to be in the right place at the right time," she said.

"I am always singing at work - I sing all the time. My friends and family can't stop me.

John said: "It was a little miracle as I discovered Beth by chance when I was in Debenhams at Merry Hill.

"I rushed in having stayed over for a meeting, and I wanted to get something for my wife when I heard this girl singing to herself.

Incredible

He added: "She stopped me in my tracks. I thought she had the most incredible voice.

"I knew there and then I had to get her into the studio to test out that voice and see if she had real talent."

Beth has been singing in public for many years. She performed at The Birmingham Repertory Theatre with Matthew Kelly and George Costigan in Don Quixote when she was 14.

She also performed in a gospel choir with Katherine Jenkins at The Royal Albert Hall. She's also a talented musician, and plays saxophone, clarinet, guitar and piano.

Beth, who has said she will stay in her Debenhams job until after Christmas, has since collaborated with songwriter Jud Mahoney who has worked with some of the world's leading artists.

Retirement age wins backing

MORE than half of businesses in the West Midlands favour the reintroduction of a default retirement age.

A study by the employment and pensions group of national law firm Irwin Mitchell also found that 20 per cent feared that without it, they were at risk of losing good younger members of staff due to a lack of promotion chances.

Of 114 organisations surveyed in the region, 52.6 per cent said they would welcome the ability to retire staff of a certain age automatically - a right which was removed in April 2011.

Bradley Wiggins' success rubs off on cycling clubs

CYCLING clubs in the region are enjoying a boom thanks to the success of the London 2012 Olympics and BBC Sports Personality winner Bradley Wiggins coming first in the Tour De France - with record numbers joining their ranks.

At the Wolverhampton Wheelers, club membership is up from 335 to 405 following the summer's successes.

Club vice president Robin Kyte said: "Individual membership numbers have now reached a new record in the club's 121 year history."

The Stourbug club in Stourbridge, says membership has risen by about 10 per cent to around 300. When formed six years ago they had 30.

Chairman John Plant said: "There are far more cyclists. People have suddenly realised it is a great sport."

And the Cycling Touring Club, Walsall, said numbers rose about 20 per cent to 300 with more women joining up.

Venue to serve up food show

READY Steady Cook Live is being hosted at Wolverhampton's Civic Hall on February 14.

It will be fronted by chef Lesley Waters and feature top TV chefs and a celebrity, yet to be announced.

Civic Hall spokesman Jonn Penney said: "We are delighted to have such a high profile show coming to Wolverhampton."

It will follow a similar format to the TV programme. Guest chefs will prepare a meal, give tips on how to prepare it, and then give the audience the chance to vote on their favourite.

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ALL COURSES START WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 7th JANUARY 2013
ALL BEGINNERS COURSES * WILL RUN 1 EXTRA HOUR FOR THE FIRST WEEK

Dancing Courses	Wks	Day	Time	Price
Burlesque for Beginners * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Salsa, Jive & Latin American Dancing (BEGS) No Partner necessary * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Computer Courses				
Computers for Absolute Beginners (All Ages) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£47.00
Computers for Improvers (Microsoft Word & Internet) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£47.00
Digital Photography Beginners/Intermediate * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£47.00
Back to Work Courses				
Intro to Office Software Packages * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Intro to Basic Book Keeping * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Intro to Childcare 1 Hour Free Induction Start Date To Be Confirmed	10	Tues	12.30 - 2.30pm	£42.75
Music Courses				
Keyboards for Beginners * 6 - 8.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 8.30pm	£33.75
Family Guitars for Beginners	10	Wed	5 - 6pm	£50.00
Guitars for Beginners * 6 - 8pm	10	Wed	6 - 7pm	£22.50
Drums for Adults (Full Kit of Drums) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Wed	7.30 - 9.30pm	£45.00
Creative Crafts/ Art Courses				
Flower Arranging (Mixed Ability) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Floristry (Mixed Ability) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Cake Decorating (BEGS) - "Intro to Royal Icing, Decorating a Cake" **	6	Mon	7 - 9pm	£38.72
Cake Decorating (BEGS) - "Introduction to Wired Flowers" **	5	Tues	7 - 9pm	£33.10
Family Jewellery Making (Ideal for Beginners) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Learn How to Use a Sewing Machine * 6.30 - 9.30pm	8	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£36.00
Sewing for Improvers - including Alterations and Recycling Textiles	10	Tues	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Art (For Absolute Beginners) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Learn to Face Paint Children (Ideal for Fetes and Parties) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£22.50
Cooking For Fellas (BEGS) * 6 - 9.30pm	10	Tues	6.30 - 9pm	£79.00
Can't Cook Want to Cook (BEGS) * 10-1pm Enrol Mon 07/01/13 - Thurs 10/01/13	10	Sat	10am - 12pm	£50.00
Family Diabetic Cookery Ideal for those with or Carers of Diabetics * 6.30 - 9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£27.50
Career Qualification Courses				
PTLLS - Starts 14th Jan & CTLLS - Starts 17th Jan - for teaching in The Lifelong learning sector)				
7307 minimum qualification for teaching adults **		Mon/Thurs	6 - 9pm	TBC
Level 2 Emergency First Aid at Work ** RING FOR DETAILS	2	Tues	6 - 9.30pm	£48.00
Paediatric First Aid ** (12 hours OFSTD Requirement) 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th Jan	4	Tues	6 - 9 pm	£60.00
Basic Food Hygiene Certificate (A must if working with food) ** 16th & 23rd Jan	2	Weds	6 - 9.30pm	£48.00
British Sign Language Unit 102 only (price includes Exam fee)	10	Wed	7 - 9pm	£90.00
Start Your Own Business * 6.30 - 9.30pm	5	Thurs	7 - 9pm	£22.50
Language Courses				
Holiday French (Beginners) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Weds	7 - 9pm GN	£45.00
French Club (Intermediate) Ideal for those who have attended Beginners Courses **	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm DO	£45.00
Holiday Italian (Beginners) * 6 - 8.30pm	10	Wed	7 - 8.30pm AS	£33.75
Conversation Italian Club - Ideal for those who have attended Beginners Courses **	9	Wed	6 - 7.30pm GF	£67.50
Holiday Spanish (Beginners) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Thurs	7 - 9pm AS	£45.00
Holiday Spanish (Intermediate) Ideal for those who attended a 30+ hour course	10 9	Thurs	7.30 - 9pm GN	£33.75
Holiday Spanish (Improvers) Ideal for those who attended a 20 hour course	10	Thurs	6 - 7.30pm GN/RW	£33.75
Conversation Spanish (Adv) ASSESSMENT BY TUTOR	10	Thurs	7.30 - 9pm RW	£33.75
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) - English Conversation * 10-1pm				
Enrol Mon 07/01/13 - Thurs 10/01/13	10	Sat	10am - 12pm	£100.00
Do It Yourself Courses				
Woodwork (Expert Advice on your own Project) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	10	Mon	7 - 9pm	£45.00
Recreational Courses				
Am I Psychic? (BEGS) 6TH SENSE DEVELOPMENT * 6 - 8.30pm	8	Tues	6 - 7.30pm	£27.00
ALL COURSES START WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY 14th JANUARY 2013				
Creative Crafts/ Art Courses				
Cake Decorating Club (Int/Adv & Sugar Craft) **	8	Wed	7 - 9pm	£50.00
Dancing Courses				
Tribal Fusion Belly Dancing "Basics and Beyond" (BEGS Only) * 7.00 - 9.30pm	10	Tues	8 - 9.30pm	£33.75
Tribal Fusion Belly Dancing (Imp to Adv)	10	Wed	7.45 - 9.15pm	£33.75
Music Courses				
Keyboards for Mixed Abilities (Int/Adv)	9	Wed	7.30 - 9pm	£30.38
Guitars for Improvers	9	Wed	7 - 8pm	£20.25
Guitars for Intermediates	9	Wed	8 - 9.30pm	£30.38
Recreational Courses				
Am I Psychic? (Int/Adv)	7	Tues	7 - 9pm	£31.50
COURSE STARTS THURSDAY 24th JANUARY 2013				
Recreational Courses				
Intro to Beauty & Nail Techniques (Ideal for Beginners) * 6.30 - 9.30pm	8	Thurs	7.30 - 9pm	£32.00
COURSE STARTS THURSDAY 31st JANUARY 2013				
Recreational Courses				
Family Beauty & Nail Techniques	7	Thurs	6 - 7.30pm	£28.63
COURSE STARTS MONDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2013				
Creative Crafts/ Art Courses				
Cake Decorating (BEGS) - "Introduction to Wired Flowers" **	4	Mon	7 - 9pm	£27.48
OTHER COURSES				
LITERACY AND NUMERACY RING FOR DETAILS		TBA	TBA	FREE

If you are not in receipt of any benefits and live in any of the postcodes below, you can receive a £5 discount on selected courses. Please phone for further details. Postcode evidence is required on enrolment night.

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FAMILY COURSES - All children must be a minimum age of 7 and attend with an adult

**** CLUBS 20% Concessions on (Income Support, Pension Credit, JSA, DLA, Incapacity Benefit, ESA & WTC)**

**** CLUBS 10% Concessions on receipt of Retirement Pension**

All Other Courses = Tuition Fee + Annual Registration Fee £6 payable in full first night of class (Prices are subject to change)

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All Students pay an Annual Registration Fee £6 payable in full first night of class (Prices are subject to change)

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For further Information Please Contact Kay Scampton On 07764 404588 or email adulted@thorns-s.dudley.sch.uk



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CARLA 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

SHARON slim blonde blue eyed outgoing 30's female looking for uncomplicated meets and adult companionship, like what you hear? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400119

I'M Heather I love to cook, eat in/out, share a nice flirty glass of large wine or two with good company and am eager to hear from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399715

NICKY lonely 39yr old single mum looking for adult companionship and strictly no strings fun. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399189

DEBBIE sexy size 14, fun, outgoing, discreet, looking for fun times only with male over 40yrs, call to find out more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398759

HI I'm Marilyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks/unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399565

SUE confident professional, sporty/active, seeking sensitive interesting guy for intimate evenings in with great food and conversations. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397485

MARIA French female looking for mutually convenient companionship, very friendly, very discreet and very interested in meeting with you! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397451

GRACE Jones locallike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLTm male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

TRACY 26, pretty petite brunette, possibly looking for LTR but definitely looking for fun times with outgoing guy. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397027

CLARE 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLTm caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

PAULA 37, WLTm male companion for meals out, social drinking, weekends away, hopefully leading to a meaningful friendship with benefits! Any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398503

MICHELLE 39yr old nurse, slim, petite, blonde, blue eyes, looking to enjoy life with similar romantic, caring guy. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398349

CAROLINE attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

NATASHA single professional 39yr old brunette looking for fun and friendship with genuine guy, 30-50yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

SARAH 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

TRISH tall slim young/good looking GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves life, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397579

CARING lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

LOVING caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

ANGELA green eyed dark haired feminine lady who enjoys walking and keeping fit, seeking lonely kind gentleman for good times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399633

LISA attractive blue eyed brunette, sporty, was maintained 25yr old single looking for older male for discreet dates. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399619

DEBS lonely 40's female with no ties, GSOH, N/S, loves the simple things in life looking for similar soul mate to be happy together with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399523

HI I'm Sharon an outgoing single mum looking to find love so thought I would give this a go, please don't make me regret it, someone call me pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399197

LUCY beautiful big bottomed black female, very tactile, seeks mature honest white male for loving fun times. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397389

KATHERINE 38, attractive, single, very lonely and looking for love, fun and male companionship. Pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397123

HI I'm Natalie 24, pretty, friendly, single, seeking energetic man for romantic walks, cosy nights in and fun-loving relationship. Any age/looks/race. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397489

TINA young attractive 27yr old single female looking for older friendly loving male for adult fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397563

BEV 30yr old curvy attractive female, likes music, travel, animals, cosy nights in front of a log fire, looking for affectionate male for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397353

BLONDE attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55, for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

CATHY is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTm a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657

61YR old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

JANICE 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

BIG bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

WIDOW 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013

PICK AN ADVERT AND MAKE A DATE TODAY!

SUSIE gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male companionship WLTm someone with sense of adventure and love for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117

LOUISE youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491

ALICIA 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059

JOY 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTm male 30-45 for meets. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629

CHRIS attractive slim sophisticated lady, 30-50s to relax with and get to know. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401

LOUISE 35, loves meals out, with tallish, considerate mature male who is not frightened to express themselves and enjoy life. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395727

MICHELLE attractive 30's female, blonde, leggy and very much single, seeking quality company, hopefully more with nice romantic male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395717

BUBBLY female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395719

VICKY honest caring female 39yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTm someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911

DENISE tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTm tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873

JENNY blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTm older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481

MAUREEN seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323543

FUN loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

SHAPELY attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152

CAROLINE 42yrs, slim attractive blonde. Varied interests and solvent. WLTm honest male of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395675

LOUISE 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTm male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165

FARMER'S granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTm countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204

HOME alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277

KAREN witty female who loves to laugh, WLTm similar male to share interests, romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125

MANDY 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

I'M Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051

EASYGOING down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893

LADY young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117

PAULINE attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535

FEMALE kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350397

LADY widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247

SALLY slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTm similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469

MADDIE extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and tactile relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394565

PAULINE divorced female on the wrong side of 40 looking for adult fun with easygoing highly driven man if you get my drift? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394463

SINGLE MEN

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.50 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

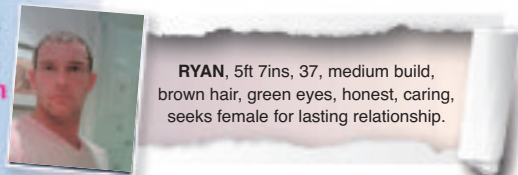
Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : **CHAT207** To : 65125. (T&C's below).

BRIAN 60's, intelligent, many interests, loving, affectionate, WLTm lady for sharing occasional meetings/weekends. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400115

52YR old single parent, 5ft 11ins, slim, likes most things, walks, nights out, cinema, animals, seeks caring, honest, trustworthy female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400039

ROY 62, tall, fit, loyal, N/S, looking for that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397637

REGISTER USING YOUR MOBILE
0333 313 7360
REPLY TO MEMBERS
0906 500 3955
COLLECT MESSAGES
0906 500 3957



RYAN, 5ft 7ins, 37, medium build, brown hair, green eyes, honest, caring, seeks female for lasting relationship.

BRIAN 73, fit, N/S, own home, likes walks, cycling, meals out, nights in, holidays, travel, seeks genuine, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399667

GUY early 60's, fit, N/S, OHAC, seeks slim female, 30-60 for fun, adult times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399567

LOOKING for love. Telford male, 46, shaved head, average build, likes walks, meals out, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397941

STEVE 49, fed up, seeking female for fun and friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393218

57YR old male, good looking, seeking female for fun times and nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397463

GARY 39, seeks female, 30-50 for LTR and fun. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398747

FRIENDLY guy 49, tall, fit, GSOH, attractive, seeks lady for discreet fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399091

TAYLOR 50, tall, athletic, GSOH, WLTm female, attractive, curvy for friendship, maybe more. food, communication, evenings out, travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399067

STEVE 54, attractive, seeks older lady, 55-75 for mutual adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399755

CARL 40, likes DVDs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393766

COVENTRY male, 42, 6ft 11ins, caring, romantic nature, seeks female, single mum welcome, 25-55, any nationality/Foreign for nice times in and out. Genuine replies only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398671

DAVID slightly disabled, likes sports, meals out, nights in, seeks female for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393192

MALE fun, outgoing, easy-going, seeking female for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393346

55YR old male, likes sports, film, nights in, seeking female, 30-45 for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398049

GENT 54, slightly mad but not bad will make you glad you answered this ad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398231

STEVEN 49, good looking, likes a laugh, pubs, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397985

WEST Midlands single guy 60, strong, WLTm affectionate lady, your place or mine for uncommitted enjoyment. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396807

BRIAN 60's, ordinary man, strong needs, seeks affectionate lady for close friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396675

INDIAN male, UK born, seeks white English female, 35-45 to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397509

JAMES 56, 5ft 9ins, professional, OHAC, independent, no ties, seeking loving relationship with likeminded woman. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397473

JOE 45, GSOH, attractive, medical professional, seeks female for daytime fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396671

CLIVE 46, seeking hot chick for plenty of action. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392772

GOOD looking male, early 50's, 6ft, farmer, outgoing, fun loving, seeking attractive fun loving female, 25-35 who enjoys travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393340

63YR old male, fit, likes cooking/baking, tennis, seeks female, 37-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398825

GENT mid 70's, seeks genuine lady, 65 plus for outings, holidays etc. leading to relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398575

59YR old male, 5ft 8ins, seeks younger lady for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392908

IAN 44, single dad, loving, caring, honest, seeks similar female, 30-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392874

PAUL 60, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397679

TALL dark, good looking male, 53, seeks attractive female for daytime fun and exciting times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393380

PAUL 47, short brown hair, blue/green eyes, 6ft, slim, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393456

TALL male, 64, vitality and brain, seeks lady for discreet relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398235

IAN 60, seeks active Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun and mutual pleasure. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399003

DAVID 40, genuine, down to earth, seeking someone for nights out and great times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398889

32YR old slim, dark haired, adventurous, creative, likes music, bike rides, country walks and photography, seeks likeminded female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 352753

RAYMOND 6ft, mid 70's, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks lady for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 398695

MALE 70's, honest, caring, attractive, likes socialising, seeks smart, attractive, caring lady for meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397975

GAY SINGLES

IF YOU'RE LOOKING to meet or chat to other men, look no further. Text: **GAY247** to 65125
www.localgaydate.co.uk

CD 70 plus seeking CD 70 plus for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393208

MALE 34, attractive, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, seeks slim male for fun relationship. Any area, can travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311892

GAY male, 34, slim, toned, seeking older guy for fun, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395735

MALE 44, seeking male, 18-23 for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391626

BI male, divorced, young, fit 50, own home/business, seeks male, 18-45 for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391849



Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message. Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND WOL followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

50Yr old Christian brunette, attractive, friendly, lonely, likes bowling, reading, cooking, outdoor life. Text WOL 154567 to 66888

BEAUTIFUL thing, attractive lady, n/s, beautician, enjoys fashion, antique fairs, days out & country drives. Want to know more. Text me. Text WOL 159134 to 66888

FUN blue eyed blonde, a little dizzy at times but a big bundle of fun. Text WOL 163788 to 66888

HEY guys! My interests include music, reading, tattoos, cooking, hanging out with mates and many more things. Text me! Text WOL 168355 to 66888

I AM an adventurous, outgoing and loyal person. I enjoy going places and trying new things I am a very active person. Text WOL 172922 to 66888

FUN, bubbly, happy go lucky, single, mummy, work hard, play

CHRISTMAS TV

Your festive viewing guide



LIQUOR WORLD

CHRISTMAS OFFERS

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PLYMOUTH ENGLISH GIN 70CL  £18.99	GORDONS GIN 70CL  £10.99	CRUMPTON OAK APPLE & PEAR CIDER  4 FOR £2.99 8 FOR £5.75 £16.99 FOR A CASE	CRUMPTON OAK APPLE & PEAR CIDER, 2 LITRE PLUS 25% EXTRA FREE  £2.69 each 2 FOR £5	REVOLANI ITALY WINES COMPLETE RANGE  EACH £2.99 3 FOR £7.00	WKD BLUE 700ML  2 FOR £5.50
FAMOUS GROUSE 70CL  £11.79	JIM BEAM 70CL  £17.49	CARLING 500ml  8 FOR £5.99 24 FOR £17.79	HOLSTEN PILS  4 FOR £3.49 8 FOR £6.50 24 CASE £19.99	STRONGBOW  4 FOR £3.29 8 FOR £6.25 24 CASE £17.99	BLOSSOM HILL CALIFORNIA WINE RED, WHITE, ROSE  3 FOR £9.99
DANNOFF VODKA  70CL £9.99 1.0L £13.99	SMIRNOFF VODKA 70CL  £10.99	SMIRNOFF ICE 700ML  2 FOR £5.50	DRAUGHT GUINNESS  4 FOR £4.89 24 CASE £26.99	SCRUMPY JACK  4 FOR £3.99, 8 FOR £6.99, 24 CASE £19.99	Jacobs Creek Cabernet Merlot Semillon Chardonnay Grenache Shiraz  2 FOR £12
HENNESSEY COGNAC 70CL  £24.99 <i>Includes gift pack with two glasses, limited stock available</i>	GREY GOOSE, BELVEDERE VODKA 70CL  £31.99	ASTI MARTINI  £6.99 EACH 2 FOR £12.99	STELLA ARTOIS 500ml  8 CANS £8.00 CASE £21.99	HARDYS VR  2 FOR £9.00	WHITE ZINFADEL GALLO WHITE GRENACHE  2 FOR £9.00
				COURVOISIER COGNAC 70CL  £18.99	STOWELLS, V.A.S  2 for £9.00

DECEMBER 23

CHRISTMAS TV

NHS

Bridley Clinical Commissioning Group

Pharmacies opening over the Holiday Period

Christmas Day Pharmacies

Lloyds Pharmacy, Off Little Cottage Street, Brierley Hill. 10am-2pm

Holly Hall Pharmacy, 178 Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall, Dudley. 10am-6pm

Boxing Day Pharmacies

Asda Pharmacy, Merryhill Centre. 9am-5pm

Pearson Street, Brierley Hill. 9am-5pm

Cornbow Shopping Centre, Halesowen. 9am-5pm

Boots UK Ltd., Merry Hill Centre. 8am-6pm

25-26 Market Place, Dudley. 10am-4pm

16-18 Market Street, Kingswinford. 10am-4pm

5 Ryemarket, Stourbridge. 10am-2pm

Lloyds Pharmacy, Off Little Cottage Street, Brierley Hill. 10am-2pm

Dudley Street, Sedgley. 10am-2pm

New Years Day Pharmacies

Asda Pharmacy, Merryhill Centre. 10am-4pm

Pearson Street, Brierley Hill 10am-4pm

Cornbow Shopping Centre, Halesowen. 10am-4pm

Boots UK Ltd., Merry Hill Centre. 10am-6pm

Lloyds Pharmacy, Off Little Cottage Street, Brierley Hill. 10am-2pm

Sainsbury's Pharmacy, Merry Hill Centre. 10am-5pm

Sandringham Way, Brierley Hill. 10am-5pm

For help and advice contact
NHS Direct **0845 46 47**

Early View

Prime Time

Late View

BBC1

BBC2

ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5



Can Villa striker Benteke bring down the Blues?

6.00 Breakfast News, sport and entertainment reports. (C) **7.30 Match of the Day** Gabby Logan presents highlights of yesterday's Premier League clashes, including Manchester City v Reading at the Etihad Stadium and Wigan Athletic v Arsenal at the DW Stadium. (C) (R) **9.00 David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Paul** Part one of two. The actor tracks the man who brought Christianity to the masses. (C) **10.00 The Nativity** Retelling of the biblical story, starring Andrew Buchan and Tatiana Maslany. (C) (R) **11.00 Fern Britton Meets Dionne Warwick** The singer discusses her life. Last in the series. (C) **12.00 BBC News: Weather**. (C) **12.10 Countryfile** Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury visit an RSPB reserve in Norfolk. (C) (R) **1.05 TBA 1.55 FILM: Cool Runnings** (1993) Fact-based comedy about four Jamaicans who became the first bobsleigh team to compete for their country at the 1988 Winter Olympics. Starring John Candy, Leon and Doug E Doug. (C) **HHH 3.30 The Borrowers** Fantasy adventure, starring Stephen Fry and Christopher Eccleston. (C) (R) **4.55 Songs of Praise** David Grant presents carols by candlelight. (C) **5.30 Nigel Slater's 12 Tastes of Christmas** Part two of two. Centrepieces, sweet treats and making clever use of leftovers. (C) (R)



Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012

6.00 CBeebies 6.45 CBBC 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites James Martin presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from the past year in the kitchen. (C) **11.30 The Great British Bake Off Christmas Masterclass** Mary Berry and Paul Hollywood demonstrate how to make a number of festive favourites, including mince pies and Christmas pudding, as well as new recipes for tasty treats. (C) (R) **12.30 FILM: The Preacher's Wife** (1996) Romantic fantasy remake, starring Whitney Houston and Denzel Washington. (C) **HH 2.30 Escape to the Country** People search for their ideal rural retreats. (C) (R) **3.15 Coast** The team visits locations around the British shoreline, telling stories and investigating mysteries that have played an important role in the nation's heritage. (C) (R) **3.30 Flog It!** People are invited to try to make money by selling their antiques at auction. (C) (R) **4.30 FILM: First Knight** (1995) A wandering swordsman is made a knight at King Arthur's court, where he falls in love with the monarch's queen. Adventure, starring Richard Gere, Sean Connery and Julia Ormond. (C)



Vintage Carry On comedy in the Wild West, 1.45pm

6.00 CITV 9.25 There's No Taste Like Home Gino D'Acampo travels to Cilithero in Lancashire, where he helps three home cooks prepare their family recipes for a Turkish chicken dish, fish pie and French veal. (T) **10.10 Dis Date** Ken from Worcester takes part in the matchmaking show, choosing three blind dates from five potential partners, based entirely on menus they have created. (T) (R) **11.20 All Star Family Fortunes** Singer Suzanne Shaw takes on Coronation Street's William Roache. (T) (R) **12.05 ITV News and Weather**. (T) **12.15 Columbo 1.45 FILM: Carry On Cowboy** (1966) A timid English sanitation expert is mistakenly made sheriff of a lawless Wild West town plagued by notorious outlaw the Rumpo Kid. Comedy Western, starring Jim Dale and Sid James. (T) **3.30 FILM: Twins** (1988) Genetically designed twin brothers who were separated at birth set out on an adventure in search of their long-lost mother. Comedy, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito. (T) **5.30 You've Been Framed!** Comedian Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder catches and viewers' mobile phone footage. (T) (R)



Damian Lewis stars in Homeland on at 9pm

6.05 The Hoobs The friends visit Peep gardens. (T) (R) **6.30 The Hoobs** Iver wants to ride in a police car. (T) (R) **6.55 TBA 7.25 TBA 7.50 TBA 7.55 The Bear** A large furry bear arrives from the zoo to take on a temporary residence with a little girl and her parents. Heart-warming children's animation from the pen of Raymond Briggs. (T) (R) **8.25 Frasier** Niles and Frasier try to help their old school. (T) (R) **9.00 Frasier** Niles spoils Frasier's new romance show. (T) (R) **9.30 Xmas Sunday Brunch** Festive edition. Guests include The Gypsy Queens. (T) **12.00 The Big Bang Theory** Amy and Sheldon start a gossip experiment. (T) (R) **12.30 The Big Bang Theory** Priya finds a loophole in the room-mate agreement. (T) (R) **1.00 The Simpsons** Marge starts a carpentry business, but quickly learns she will need more than mere skill if her venture is to succeed. Fearing sexism, she appoints Homer as a figurehead. (T) (R) **1.30 Kirstie's Vintage Christmas** Kirstie Allsopp shows how to add the perfect festive touches. (T) (R) **2.30 Deal or No Deal** Game show, with Noel Edmonds. (T) **3.30 100 Greatest Toys with Jonathan Ross** A countdown of the nation's favourite games and playthings. (T) (R)



Billy Bob Thornton is Bad Santa, on at 9pm

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 TBA 10.15 Dallas JR secretly moves the Southfork clock along, but becomes suspicious of John Ross's relationship with the Del Sol's, while Rebecca suggests Christopher should cancel their honeymoon. (T) (R) **1.15 Once Upon a Time** Prince Charming is ambushed by feisty thief Snow White. (T) (R) **12.15 Once Upon a Time** Cinderella regrets making a deal with Rumpelstiltskin. (T) (R) **1.15 FILM: The Santa Suit** (2010) Comedy, starring Kevin Sorbo. **HH 3.00 FILM: It's a Very Merry Muppet Christmas Movie** (2002) Festive comedy, with Joan Cusack and Whoopi Goldberg. **HH 4.45 FILM: The Family Man** (2000) Drama, starring Nicolas Cage. **HH**

6.00 BBC News: Regional News and Weather (C)

6.30 Countryfile Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury bring us the latest rural developments, including reports on issues affecting country communities and insights into the life of the modern farmer. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. (C)

7.30 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents a look back at the most important and talked-about finds from the most recent series, including highlights from the programmes themselves, as well as updates on the items, whether they went to auction, were kept or were lent to exhibitions. (C)

8.30 Loving Miss Hatto Drama about classical pianist Joyce Hatto, written by Victoria Wood. The story begins in early-1950s London, when she met her future husband William Barrington-Coupe, and tells their love story right up until 50 years later. With his wife stricken by cancer, record producer William released other musicians' work under her name, which became known as one of the biggest music frauds ever. Francesca Annis and Alfred Molina are among the cast. (C)

10.00 BBC News: Regional News and Weather (C)

10.25 Match of the Day 2 Mark Chapman is joined by Alan Shearer and Dion Dublin to present highlights of today's Premier League fixtures, which were Swansea City v Manchester United at the Liberty Stadium and Chelsea v Aston Villa at Stamford Bridge. United earned a 1-0 win in last season's corresponding fixture against the Swans, while the Blues suffered a shock 3-1 home defeat at the hands of the Villans last term, an outcome that the visitors will have been desperate to emulate to aid them in their fight against relegation. Plus, all the goals from yesterday's fixtures. (C)

11.25 The Graham Norton Show With movie legend Dustin Hoffman, comedy double-act Billy Connolly and Jennifer Saunders and the current Doctor Who star Matt Smith. (C) (R)

6.35 The Morecambe and Wise Christmas Show Festive fun from 1973 with the ever-popular comedy duo and guests Vanessa Redgrave, Hannah Gordon, Rudolf Nureyev, Laurence Olivier and Andre Previn, all proving they are game for a laugh. Comic highlights include what is probably the couple's most famous sketch, which takes place in Eric and Ernie's bedroom. (C) (R)

7.35 Victoria Wood with All the Trimmings The comedienne sends up Christmas TV in a festive special from 2000. Guest stars including Julie Walters, Alan Rickman, Pete Postlethwaite, Celia Imrie, James Bolam, Della Smith, Richard E. Grant, Derek Jacobi, Alan Titchmarsh, Michael Parkinson and Imelda Staunton pop up in pastiches of everything from a big-band show from the 1950s to a Dickens period drama. (C) (R)

8.30 Morecambe & Wise: Song & Dance Sketches More classic clowning from the legendary double act who have been a Christmas institution for decades (C)

9.30 James May's Toy Stories: Flight Club The Top Gear presenter investigates the enduring appeal of the model aeroplane and sets out with the intention of achieving the first flight across the Channel by an engineless, homemade superpowered toy - breaking the British distance record in the process. During his quest, James turns Indiana Jones to unearth surprising new evidence identifying children as the true pioneers of flight and wrestles with an underperforming craft that threatens to barely leave the ground. (C)

10.30 The Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012 The award-winning comedienne hosts a special Christmas edition of her show, in which she delivers short stand-up routines inspired by festive TV. Sarah is joined by Downton Abbey star Hugh Bonneville and Shane Richie of EastEnders for a spot of Yuletide conversation. (C)

11.00 Victoria Wood: As Seen on TV The comedienne reflects on her television career with a combination of sketches, stand-up and songs. (C) (R)

6.00 Central News and Weather. (T)

6.30 You've Been Framed! Comedian Harry Hill narrates a selection of camcorder calamities and viewers' mobile phone footage. (T) (R)

7.00 Ade's Christmas Crackers Comic Ade Edmondson delves deep into the television archives to share some broadcasting gems and moments of TV gold which have been broadcast over the past 60 years (T)

8.00 The Cube TV presenter Melanie Sykes tackles up to seven seemingly simple challenges inside the giant transparent box, aiming to win £250,000 for good causes. Diversity star Ashley Banjo also takes a shot at scooping the charity jackpot - but will his £15 frame come in handy as the cube presents him with a series of fiendishly difficult tasks? The contestants both receive nine lives at the start, but with each one they lose, the pressure mounts. Phillip Schofield hosts. (T)

9.00 Doors Open Bored millionaire Mike Mackenzie is a man with a broken heart and too much time on his hands. Incensed by wealthy patrons hiding works of art away in private collections, he and two close friends - a professor and a banker - devise a plot to swap priceless masterpieces stored in a gallery's warehouse with near-perfect forgeries. If successful, Mike will save the paintings and might just win back the love of his life, auctioneer Laura Stanton, who left him five years earlier. Thriller based on the book by Ian Rankin, starring Douglas Henshall, Stephen Fry, Kenneth Collard, Lenora Crichtlow and Brian McCordie. (T)

11.00 ITV News and Weather. (T)

11.15 Fool Britannia Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly poking fun at what it means to be British, with a string of eccentric pranks. (T) (R)

11.45 Premiership Rugby Union Action from the latest round of fixtures. (T)

12.45 Jackpot247 Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **2.45 River Monsters** Jeremy Wade heads to Thailand in search of the giant freshwater stingray, one of the world's largest and most terrifying river fish. Armed with a venomous 10in barb on the end of its whip-like tail, this 700lb predator tests the extreme angler to his physical limits, eventually snapping his rod and ripping his bicep. (T) (R) **3.45 ITV Nightscreen**

6.30 Channel 4 News including a round-up of the day's sport and weather. (T)

6.55 4thought.tv John Holme talks about becoming a Christian and shares his belief that humans are born sinners. (T)

7.00 Night at the Museum (2006) A new nightwatchman at New York's Museum of Natural History discovers his job entails more than he bargained for. Once night falls, an ancient Egyptian spell brings the museum exhibits to life, entangling him in a riotous struggle to restore peace and order before the sun rises and visitors arrive. Fantasy comedy, starring Ben Stiller, Dick Van Dyke, Robin Williams, Carla Gugino and Ricky Gervais. (T)

9.00 Homeland US marine Nicholas Brody is rescued from captivity in Afghanistan, eight years after going missing in action. He returns home to a hero's welcome - but CIA agent Carrie Mathison believes there is more to his case than meets the eye, and suspects he is secretly working on behalf of a notorious terrorist. Thriller, starring Claire Danes, Damian Lewis, Morena Baccarin, Mandy Patinkin and David Harewood. (T)

10.00 Peep Show Comedy chronicling the rather chaotic friendship and private innermost thoughts of two misfits with an unhealthy reliance on one another. Robert Webb and David Mitchell star. (T)

10.30 Dorian Gray (2009) A naive Victorian man unthinkingly sells his soul for eternal youth, wishing that a portrait of him should age instead. His wish is granted and he is drawn into a life of debauchery by a hedonistic lord, while over the years, the painting becomes increasingly horrific as it reflects his corrupt true nature. Horror, based on Oscar Wilde's short story, starring Ben Barnes, Colin Firth and Ben Chaplin. (T)

12.30 C4 Comedy Presents: Them from That Thing Party Two sketches, with Blake Harrison and Morgana Robinson. (T) (R) **1.00 American Football Live** A match from the NFL. (T) **4.45 Supernanny US** The Froebrechts ask Jo Frost to help them control their children, whose behaviour has grown worse due to the stress of their grandmother coming to live with them. (T) **5.25 90210** Annie volunteers to organise a major charity event, hoping it will enable her to put her inheritance to good use. Naomi makes a risky bid to secure a client for her new business. (T) **5.35 FILM: Andre** (1994) Family drama, starring Keith Carradine. (T) H

7.00 5 News Weekend Round-up of the day's headlines across the UK and from around the world. (T)

7.05 Christmas with the Kranks (2004) A married couple from Chicago decide to steer clear of the usual festive celebrations and keep their seash for a holiday in the sun, prompting a busybody neighbour to call on the young and old members of the community to pull out all the stops to make them change their minds. Festive comedy that's a little disappointing when you consider the quality of the cast. Based on a novel by John Grisham, starring Jamie Lee Curtis, Tim Allen, Dan Aykroyd and M Emmet Walsh.

9.00 Bad Santa (2003) A grumpy alcoholic safecracker takes a job as an in-store Father Christmas with a view to robbing his employers' premises - but a bullied kid, a Santa-loving barmaid and an overzealous security guard look set to wreck his plans for an inside job. Thought-provoking black comedy, starring a great performance from a spot-on Billy Bob Thornton, Tony Cox, Brett Kelly, Lauren Graham, Bernie Mac and John Ritter.

11.05 Superbad (2007) Teen comedy, starring Jonah Hill and Michael Cera. Two immature high school students, who have been almost inseparable best pals, are forced to deal with separation anxieties as their plans to host a booze-fuelled party go badly awry.

1.15 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **4.00 House Doctor** A cluttered flat in Hammer-smith. (T) (R) **4.25 House Doctor** A country cottage in Northamptonshire. (T) (R) **4.50 Rough Guide To Antwerp**, Dublin and Tel Aviv. (T) (R) **5.05 Hana's Helpline** Katy the kitten hopes to become a musician. (T) (R) **5.15 The Milkshake! Show** Shake tries to build a snowman. (T) (R) **5.40 Thomas & Friends** Duncan transports a bell. (T) (R) **5.50 Roary the Racing Car** Molecom wants to be more musical. (T) (R)

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CHRISTMAS TV

CHRISTMAS EVE

BBC1



Agnes finds herself facing her busiest Christmas ever, 10.10pm

6.00 **Breakfast** Round-up of national and international news, plus the latest from the money markets. (C) 9.00 **David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St Paul** Part two of two. How Paul brought Christianity to the Mediterranean world. (C) 10.00 **The Nativity Conclusion**. Joseph still cannot accept Mary's pregnancy, but as the people turn against her, Joseph begs his son-in-law to take her to safety in Bethlehem. (C) (R) 11.00 **TBA 12.00 BBC News: Weather** (C) 12.15 **Regional News: Weather** (C) 12.25 **FILM: The Santa Clause** (1994) A divorced father accidentally kills Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and is forced to deliver the presents himself. Fantasy comedy, with Tim Allen, Judge Reinhold and Wendy Crewson. (C) 1.55 **FILM: The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian** (2008) The four Pevensie children return to the magical land of Narnia to help the rightful king reclaim his throne. Fantasy adventure sequel, starring Ben Barnes and William Moseley. (C) 4.10 **TBA 5.05 FILM: Lady and the Tramp** (1955) A pet dog is driven from her home, and learns to live on the streets with the aid of a roguish stray. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Barbara Luddy and Larry Roberts. (C)

Early View

BBC2



And it's Merry Christmas from them... The Two Ronnies

6.00 **CBeebies** 7.05 **CBBC** 9.00 **FILM: Who Framed Roger Rabbit** (1988) Comedy mixing live action and animation, starring Bob Hoskins. (C) 10.35 **FILM: Christmas Snow** (1986) A miserly landlord throws a widow and her children out of their home, but finds he needs their help when he gets lost in a blizzard. Drama, with Sid Caesar and Katherine Helmond. (C) 11.20 **The Great British Bake Off** Cooks battle it out to be named Britain's best amateur baker. (C) (R) 12.20 **FILM: Flight of the Navigator** (1986) Sci-fi adventure, starring Joey Cramer. (C) 1.45 **Wartime Farm Christmas** Rural life during the Christmas of 1944. (C) (R) 2.45 **Equestrian** The Olympia International Horse Show. Clare Balding presents action from the seventh and final day of the prestigious event at the Olympia Grand Hall in London. (C) 3.45 **FILM: Nativity!** (2006) A primary school teacher becomes a local celebrity when he dishonestly claims Hollywood is interested in his nativity play. Comedy, starring Martin Freeman and Ashley Jensen. (C) (R) 5.25 **Dad's Army** Frazer is unable to hide his delight when Captain Mainwaring's respectable brother gatecrashes a sherry party for local dignitaries. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (C) (R)

ITV1



Jim Carrey is The Grinch in this film fantasy at 4.45pm

5.30 **ITV Morning News** (T) 6.00 **CITV** (T) 8.15 **FILM: Scooby-Doo and the Cyber Chase** (2001) The curious quartet are transported inside a video game, and must battle their way out through puzzles and mazes. Animated adventure, with the voices of Bob Bergen and Scott Innes. (T) HH 9.25 **FILM: Dennis** (1993) A well-meaning little boy's inability to stay out of trouble consistently infuriates his irascibly old neighbour. Slapstick comedy, starring Walter Matthau and Mason Gamble. (T) 11.10 **Dinner Date** Matchmaking show in which contestants choose three blind dates based entirely on menus created by five potential partners. (T) 12.10 **ITV News** and **Weather** (T) 12.30 **The Chase** Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (T) (R) 1.30 **Doc Martin** Comedy drama, starring Martin Clunes. (T) (R) 3.30 **Rod Stewart's Christmas** The rock star performs festive songs at Stirling Castle. (T) (R)

Channel 4



The Snowman and the Snowdog, animated film at 7pm

7.25 **Famous Fred** Animation about a singing cat, with the voice of Lenny Henry. (T) (R) 7.55 **TBA 8.00 Ivor the Invisible** Children's animation. (T) (R) 8.30 **FILM: Christmas Carol: The Movie** (2001) Animated drama, with the voices of Simon Callow and Kate Winslet. (T) HH 10.05 **The Big Bang Theory** Army and Penny use Bernadette to spy on Leonard and Priya. (T) (R) 10.35 **The Big Bang Theory** Howard tells his mother he is engaged to Bernadette. (T) (R) 11.05 **The Simpsons** Lisa becomes a Buddhist. (T) (R) 11.35 **The Simpsons** Bart is caught shoplifting. (T) (R) 12.10 **FILM: The Muppet Christmas Carol** (1992) Puppet comedy, starring Michael Caine. (T) 1.50 **FILM: Scrooged** (1988) Christmas comedy, starring Bill Murray. (T) 4.45 **Deal or No Deal** (C) **Christmas Dinner** Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show. (T) 4.45 **The Simpsons** Halloween-inspired tales. (T) (R) 5.15 **The Simpsons** With the guest voice of Kiefer Sutherland. (T) (R) 5.45 **Chuzzle** 4 News including sport and weather. (T) 5.55 **4thought** Members of the public reflect on religious issues. (T)

Channel 5



The Queen at Cosford as part of her Jubilee Tour, at 8pm

6.00 **Milkshake!** 9.45 **TBA 9.50 Dallas JR** decides to move back to Southfork — but a dark cloud looms on the horizon as the Ewings' old adversary Cliff Barnes makes an unwelcome return. (T) (R) 10.45 **TBA 11.45 Once Upon a Time** The mine collapses, trapping Henry and Archie inside. (T) (R) 12.40 **Once Upon a Time** Prince Charming is slain by an opponent after a tournament. (T) (R) 1.40 **FILM: Mistletoe Over Manhattan** (2011) Christmas fantasy, starring Tricia Helfer and Greg Bryk. (T) 3.30 **FILM: Lost Holiday**. The Jim and Suzanne Shemwell Story (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Dylan Walsh and Jami Gertz. (T) 5.15 **FILM: Scrooged** — A Christmas Carol (1951) Charles Dickens' fantasy, starring Alastair Sim. HH 11

6.20 **BBC News: Weather** (C)6.35 **Midlands Today: Weather** (C)

6.45 **A Christmas Carol** (2009) **Premiere**. A foul-tempered Victorian miser who hates the festive season is visited on Christmas Eve by a series of ghosts. The spirits intend to make him mend his wicked ways by showing him visions of the past, the present and what the future will hold for him if he does not change for the better.

8.15 **Merlin** As a fierce battle rages on Camelot's mighty plain, just as the prophecies foretell, Merlin must find the strength to overcome his greatest challenge yet as he seeks a way to protect Camelot. As he fights to save the kingdom from the attacking hordes and keep Arthur safe from harm, the young wizard must finally come face to face with his destiny. The last-ever episode of the magical adventure series. (C)

9.00 **EastEnders** Max and Tanya call off the wedding after Lauren's alcohol-fuelled outburst. Alfie soldiers on, while Lola is devastated when Phil tells her Lola will not be home for Christmas. (C)

9.30 **Outnumbered Christmas Special** The Brockmans do their bit for the community by throwing a Christmas party for their friends and neighbours — but as they might have known, things don't go as planned. Jane seems to have fallen in with a bad crowd, Karen would rather be chatting online and Pete's mum has turned up unexpectedly. The guests aren't exactly a barrel of laughs either, as they include Sue's friend Jane, whose love life is a disaster zone, traumatised ex-weatherman Ray and opinionated neighbour Ray. However, the party games seem to go with a swing, thanks to organiser Ben. (C)

10.10 **Mrs Brown's Boys** Agnes finds herself facing her busiest Christmas ever, with Trevor stopping over, her grandson Bono staying on Christmas Eve and Dermot's triplets all arriving too. If that wasn't enough to juggle, she decides to take on the task of staging a Nativity play. The first of two festive editions of the comedy, starring Brendan O'Carroll. (C)

10.40 **To be confirmed**

11.25 **BBC News: Weather** (C)

11.45 **Midnight Mass from Leeds Cathedral** Live service from St Anne's Cathedral in Leeds. (C)

1.05 **FILM: Film TBA 2.35 Weather** (C) 2.40 **BBC News** 2.45 **Asian Business Report**. News from the markets. 2.45 **Sport Today**. News and results from around the world. 3.00 **BBC News**. 3.30 **Asia Business Report**. News from the markets. 3.45 **Sport Today**. News and results from around the world. 4.00 **BBC News**. 4.30 **HARDtalk**. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 **BBC News**. 5.30 **World Business Report**. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 **BBC News**. (C)

Prime Time

Late View

6.05 **Carols from King's** The solo chorister singing the opening verse of Once in Royal David's City from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, marks the beginning of Christmas for millions of people around the world. Carols from King's tells the Christmas story through readings from the King James Bible and poems by Rainer Maria Rilke, William Austin and Laurie Lee. The world-famous King's College Choir, under the direction of Stephen Cleobury, sings carols including Ding Dong Merrily on High, Away in a Manger, The Holly and the Ivy, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, We Three Kings, In the Bleak Midwinter, Silent Night and Hark! The Herald Angels Sing. (C)

7.20 **Dragons' Den Christmas Special** For the first time the Den opens its doors purely for commerce at Christmas, with nine entrepreneurs representing six businesses descend the stairs to pitch their festive ideas in the hope of securing a cash injection from the five multimillionaires. Alongside normal proceedings, there will be insights into the approach to take during the seasonal trading period as well as the pitfalls that can come with success. There is also a catch up with a few of the entrepreneurs — some who succeeded in gaining the Dragons' support and others who did not — to find out whether they hit it big this year. Evan Davis presents. (C)

8.20 **Open All Hours** Shopkeeping comedy, with Ronnie Barker as the miserly Arkwright, David Jason as his down-trodden nephew and Lynda Baron as Nurse Gladys Emmanuel. (C) (R)

8.50 **Porridge** Fletch discovers fellow inmates at Slade Prison are planning to escape — and decides to hide in the hospital so he cannot be blamed when the tunnel is discovered. Festive edition of the classic comedy from 1975, starring Ronnie Barker and Richard Beckinsale. (C) (R)

9.30 **Ronnie Barker: The Many Faces Of...** (C)

10.30 **The Two Ronnies: The Studio** A collection of unedited takes from the classic comedy show, featuring both famous and more obscure sketches. (C) (R)

11.00 **Being Ronnie Corbett** Documentary charting the comedian's long career. (C) (R)

1.00 **The Unforgettable Profiles** of famous entertainers. (T) (R) 2.00 **ITV News** 3.50 **Pushing Daisies** Anna Friel and Lee Pace star in the long-awaited hit US drama about pie-maker Ned, who can bring people back from the dead just by touching them, then sends them to the afterlife with just another poke of his finger. He decides to use his power to solve crime, bringing murder victims back to life so they can name their killers — but things get complicated when he resuscitates his childhood sweetheart and decides to let her stay alive, knowing they can never come into physical contact. (T) (R) 4.50 **ITV News** 5.00 **ITV News**

4.45 **The Grinch** (2000) A grouchy creature plots to ruin Christmas and seasonal goodwill for the Whoville town residents. Fantasy comedy, based on Dr Seuss' book, starring Jim Carrey and Taylor Momsen. (T)

6.45 **ITV News and Weather** (T) 7.00 **Emmerdale** Cameron takes drastic steps to deal with his hostage after a chase through the woods, while Priya gives David his Christmas gift — a skiing holiday, but they leave on Boxing Day. (T)

7.30 **Coronation Street** It's going to be a dramatic Christmas for several of Weatherfield's best known couples. (T)

8.00 **You've Been Framed!** Christmas Harry Hill narrates a festive selection of canoodled calamities and viewers' mobile phone footage, including stumbling Santas, ungrateful children, a dog that uses a Christmas tree as a toilet, and an unexpected shock from some fairy lights. (T) (R)

8.30 **Coronation Street** More Christmas Eve drama from TV's most famous street. (T)

9.00 **The Spice Girls Story: Viva Forever!** A brand new and official, prime-time documentary on The Spice Girls including interviews with five stars themselves, plus their mothers, a host of celebrity pals, and more. It features behind the scenes footage of the infamous press call earlier this year, rehearsals and backstage footage of their performance in the The Olympics Closing Ceremony, and of course lots of sneak peaks of the new Spice Girls musical, Viva Forever, and its development. (T)

10.30 **ITV News and Weather** (T)

10.45 **Christmas Carols on ITV** (T)

11.45 **The Jonathan Ross Show** The star-studded line-up to take you into the early hours of Christmas Day includes Michael McIntyre, Sienna Miller, Sheridan Smith, Charlotte Church, Jamie Oliver, Jonnie Peacock and West Midlands' own Paralympic gold medal-winning star Ellie Simmonds. (T) (R)

6.00 **Hollyoaks** Barney tells Rob about his secret arrangement with Nana McQueen, unaware his admission has been overheard, and Brendan struggles to cope with his father's presence in the village. (T)

6.30 **Ice Age: A Mammoth Christmas** Festive spin-off of the animated films. Sid the sloth accidentally ruins one of Manny the mammoth's Christmas traditions, and is worried to discover he may be on Santa Claus's naughty list — so he heads to the North Pole in a bid to redeem himself. (T) (R)

7.00 **The Snowman and the Snowdog** Animated sequel to Raymond Briggs' classic festive tale *The Snowman*. A boy's snowman and snowdog magically come to life at the stroke of midnight and take him on an adventure to the North Pole, where he and his new companions meet an assortment of colourful characters, including Santa himself, before returning home. (T)

7.30 **The Making of the Snowman and the Snowdog** One of the most popular British animations ever made, *The Snowman* has become a fixture in the Christmas schedules. Yet the talent behind the phenomenon is reclusive. Now, 30 years after the film adaptation of his children's book, Raymond Briggs provides an insight into his life, talks about his inspiration and reveals why he has finally approved a sequel. The programme also meets the creative team behind the new film, many of whom played a key role in the original, and others from the literary world share their thoughts on why his work is successful. (T)

8.30 **Stephen Fry: Gadget Man Xmas Special** The actor delves into the world of technology. (T)

9.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats** Panel show hosted by Jimmy Carr. (T)

10.00 **Peep Show** Comedy about two misfits with an unhealthy reliance on one another. Robert Webb and David Mitchell star. (T)

10.30 **The Inbetweeners** Carl organises a fashion show that Simon is eager to participate in. Will tries to shake off his embarrassing reputation, while Jay continues to lie about his sexual experiences. (T) (R)

11.05 **The Inbetweeners** Simon tries to impress a girl. (T) (R)

11.35 **The Inbetweeners** The gang visits a university. (T) (R)

12.10 **The Inbetweeners** Will is left home alone. (T) (R) 12.45 **The Inbetweeners** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) 1.10 **The Inbetweeners** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) 1.40 **Rude Tube** Sitcom about four teenagers growing up in suburbia. (T) (R) 2.45 **Deal in Chelsea** Reality show following the social activities of a group of people in their twenties, who live in and around the most exclusive postcodes in London. (T) (R) 3.40 **90210** Naomi receives a surprise visit from her sister. (T) 4.20 **Deal or No Deal** Game show, with Noel Edmonds. (T) (R) 5.15 **Countdown** Word game with Alistair McGowan in Dictionary Corner. (T) (R)

7.00 **Rolf's Animal Christmas** Rolf Harris revisits some of the most memorable stories of the year from Rolf's Animal Clinic, a series that saw animals of all shapes and sizes receiving vital and often life-saving treatment. This festive special reveals how some of the patients fared after they returned home to their grateful owners following medical attention at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science campus at Leahurst in Cheshire. 5 News Update (T)

8.00 **A Right Royal 2012** A look at how the royal family has fared in the past year, with highlights including the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, which was celebrated by millions of people despite the rain. The low points saw the publication of revealing photographs of the Duchess of Cambridge in the foreign press, as well as a UK newspaper printing pictures of Prince Harry playing strip billiards in a hotel in Las Vegas. With contributions by ex-MP Ann Widdecombe, Diana, Princess of Wales's former private secretary Patrick Jephson, pageant master of the jubilee Iolita Adrian Evans, royal correspondent Robert Johnson and social historian Dominic Sandbrook. 5 News at 9 (T)

9.00 **Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker** Festive edition of the documentary following the company's truckers as they face one of their busiest times of the year. A hospital in Cambridge awaits the arrival of a huge Christmas tree to raise patients' spirits, while petrol forecourts expect bumper fuel deliveries for those facing long drives home. A town in the north east of England is due a consignment of reindeer for their annual parade and on top of all that, the drivers must hit the right note for the company's charity Yuletide sing. (T)

10.00 **Tommy Cooper's Christmas** A seasonal special from 1973, featuring a generous helping of mirth, mayhem and magic from the comedian, who demonstrates how to cook a duck-egg omelette, plays snooker with a sand wedge and rides an ostrich. Joining Tommy are singers Clodagh Rodgers and Sacha Distel, who perform a medley of festive favourites.

11.05 **The Plank** (1967) Slapstick comedy, starring Eric Sykes and Tommy Cooper.

12.10 **TBA 1.10 SuperCasino** Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 4.00 **House Doctor** A Victorian property in Camden, north London. (T) (R) 4.25 **House Doctors** Life-enhancing changes to a home. (T) (R) 4.50 **Great Artists Profile** of Renaissance painter Tiziano Vecellio, known to English-speakers as Titian, who pioneered the use of oils with a radical approach to light, colour, and brush strokes. (T) (R) 5.10 **Michael's Wild Challenge** Michaela Strachan gets groomed by monkeys. (T) (R) 5.35 **Michaela's Wild Challenge** Jamie Crawford is challenged to kiss a poison dart frog. (T) (R)

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CHRISTMAS DAY

CHRISTMAS



	BBC1	BBC2	ITV1	Channel 4	Channel 5
	<p>Jenny Agutter in Call The Midwife, 7.45pm</p> <p>6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. (C) 9.00 TBA 10.00 Christmas Day Eucharist Traditional morning service live from St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol. (C) 11.00 FILM: The Santa Clause 3: The Escape Clause (2006) Christmas fantasy comedy sequel, starring Tim Allen. (C) HH 12.25 BBC News (C) 12.35 Weather (C) 12.40 FILM: Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (2008) The escaped zoo animals come across their wild counterparts after their plane crashes in Africa. Animated adventure, with the voices of Ben Stiller, Chris Rock and David Schwimmer. (C) 2.00 The Pops Christmas Special Fennee Cotton and Reggie Yates present the annual chart countdown. (C) 3.00 The Queen Her Majesty's annual address. (C) 3.10 FILM: Shrek Forever After (2010) Premiere. Animated comedy, with the voice of Mike Myers. (C) 4.40 Room on the Broom Animated adaptation of the children's book about a witch who invites a surprising number of animals to ride on her broom. The voice cast includes Rob Brydon and David Williams. (C) 5.05 BBC News (C) 5.20 Weather (C) 5.30 Doctor Who The Time Lord is summoned to Victorian England to thwart an icy menace. (C)</p>	<p>The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives, 9pm</p> <p>6.00 CBeebies 6.30 The Cow That Almost Missed Christmas Animation retelling the nativity story from the viewpoint of a young cow. (C) (R) 7.00 CBBC 9.00 Attenborough's Egg Hunt David Attenborough returns to Madagascar 50 years after his first visit. (C) (R) 10.00 Attenborough's Ark: Natural World Special David Attenborough chooses 10 animals he would most like to save from extinction. (C) (R) 11.00 Carols from King's Music and readings from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge. (C) (R) 12.15 FILM: On the Town (1949) Musical, starring Gene Kelly, Frank Sinatra and Jules Munshin. (C) 1.50 FILM: Singin' in the Rain (1952) A silent-movie star tries to win the heart of an aspiring actress as the dawn of sound changes the film business for ever. Musical comedy, starring Gene Kelly and Debbie Reynolds. (C) 3.30 La Cenerentola Andrea Andrean's production of Rossini's opera based on Cinderella, starring Ukrainian soprano Lena Belkina in the lead role and tenor Edgardo Rocha as Don Ramiro. (C) 5.30 The Queen Her Majesty's annual address. (C) (R) 5.40 Arena: Sister Wendy and the Art of the Gospel The nun talks about life, faith and art. (C)</p>	<p>Fun for Mrs Patmore in the Downton Christmas special</p> <p>5.30 ITV Morning News (T) 6.00 CITY (T) 7.50 FILM: Scrooged and the Alien Invaders (2000) Animated adventure, with the voice of Jeff Bennett. (T) HH 9.25 FILM: Aladdin (1992) A street urchin happens across a lamp, home to an affable genie with the ability to grant wishes. Disney animated adventure, with the voices of Robin Williams and Scott Weinger. (T) HH 11.15 The Nation's Favourite Christmas Song A countdown of the top 20 tunes guaranteed to get people in the festive spirit, including classics by Wizzard, Mariah Carey, Slade, and the Pogues featuring Kirsty MacColl. (T) (R) 12.45 Text Santa: One More Time Highlights of this evening's fundraising extravaganza. (T) (R) 1.15 ITV News and Weather (T) 1.25 FILM: Toy Story (1995) Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen. (T) 3.00 The Queen Her Majesty's annual address. (T) 3.10 ITV News and Weather (T) 3.20 FILM: Tangled (2010) Premiere. A princess locked in a tower escapes with the aid of a bandit and tries to find her way home. Disney animated comedy, with the voices of Mandy Moore and Zachary Levi. (T) HH 5.15 You've Been Framed! Christmas Special Harry Hill narrates camcorder calamities. (T)</p>	<p>The Lord of the Rings, the journey begins, 5.35pm</p> <p>6.40 FILM: The Rugsrats Movie (1999) Animated adventure, with the voice of Elizabeth Daily. (T) 7.55 Snowman (T) 8.00 Father Christmas Seasonal animation based on Raymond Briggs' book. (T) (R) 8.30 Little Wolf (T) (R) 9.00 The Simpsons The children are trapped in school. (T) (R) 9.30 The Simpsons A department store Santa grants Lisa's Christmas wish. (T) (R) 10.00 Gordon's Christmas Cookalong (T) 1.45 The Snowman and the Snowdog Animated sequel to classic festive tale The Snowman. (T) (R) 2.15 FILM: The Wizard of Oz (1939) A tornado whisks a girl off to a magical land where she embarks on a journey in search of the wizard who knows the way home. Musical fantasy, with Judy Garland and Ray Bolger. (T) 4.15 Alternative Christmas Message Channel 4's annual alternative message. (T) 4.20 Deal or No Deal's Big Christmas Dinner Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show. (T) 5.20 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather. (T) 5.25 4thought.tv Members of the public reflect on religious issues. (T) 5.30 Lord of the Rings: Fellowship Intro (T) 5.35 FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring (2001) Fantasy adventure, starring Elijah Wood. (T)</p>	<p>Rolf's Animal Christmas, revisiting the series at 6pm</p> <p>6.00 Milkshake! 9.25 TBA 9.30 Once Upon a Time The Evil Queen hires the Huntsman to kill Snow as his Storybrooke counterpart Sheriff Graham starts to remember his alternative life. (T) (R) 10.25 FILM: Gone with the Wind (1939) A plantation heiress has a tumultuous relationship with a roughish Southern gentleman during the American Civil War. Epic romantic drama, starring Vivien Leigh and Clark Gable. More than 1,400 actresses were interviewed for the coveted role of Scarlett O'Hara. The one actress whom all of Hollywood felt had the role (including herself) was Paulette Goddard, live-in girlfriend of comedian Charlie Chaplin. When the press leaked the information they were "living in sin", Paulette was quickly dropped from consideration. 2.30 FILM: Trading Christmas (2011) Premiere. A lonely widower and a frustrated writer arrange to swap houses for Christmas, and both find themselves having unexpected romances. Comedy, with Faith Ford and Gil Bellows. (T) 4.15 FILM: The Santa Incident (2010) Premiere. Santa Claus is marooned in a small town and must prepare for Christmas without the resources of his North Pole workshop. Comedy, starring Greg Gorman and Lone Skye. (T)</p>
Early View					
Prime Time	<p>6.30 Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly welcome seven former contestants and six Strictly newcomers to the dance floor to compete for the Christmas glitterball trophy, and singer Rod Stewart performs Let It Snow. Leading the line-up are 2008 and 2009 champions Tom Chambers and Chris Hollins, alongside series one winner Natasha Kaplinsky, while Kelly Brook, Rachel Stevens, Colin Jackson and Chelsee Healey also dust off their dancing shoes. Entering the ballroom for the first time are JLS singer Jonathan 'JB' Gill, former footballer Fabrice Muamba, comics Bobby Ball and Katy Brand, actress Sheila Hancock, and presenter Helen Skelton. Viewers' favourites Ann Widdecombe and Russell Grant add a little extra yuletide sparkle with a guest appearance. (C)</p> <p>7.45 Call the Midwife Christmas Special The hit drama of the year returns for a one-off special and what could be more festive than the nuns finding a newborn baby on the steps of the convent? The discovery prompts the community to rally round, providing food and clothing for the unexpected arrival. But the question remains – who is his mother and why did she leave him there? Jessica Raine, Miranda Hart, Pam Ferris and Jenny Agutter star. (C)</p> <p>9.00 EastEnders Derek plots to ruin Max's Christmas festivities, and when his plan falls into place, the perfect day turns into a disaster. A fun day at the Vic prompts Roxy to tell Alfie a secret. (C)</p> <p>10.00 The Royle Family A new neighbour's cleverness leads to a many topics of conversation as the couch-potato clan gathers for another fun-filled Christmas Day. This year Barbara has gone overboard with the presents after spending an entire two hours in the pound shop. Joe next door has turned to the lonely hearts column, although his advert leaves a lot to be desired, and Dave has had a flash of entrepreneurial inspiration. Ricky Tomlinson, Sue Johnston, Caroline Aherne and Craig Cash star. (C)</p> <p>11.00 BBC News All the latest headlines. (C)</p> <p>11.10 Weather (C)</p> <p>11.15 To be confirmed</p> <p>11.55 On Christmas Night Paralympic medal-winner Rachel Morris reads Christmas story. (C)</p>	<p>6.40 50 Years of Bond Cars: A Top Gear Special Richard Hammond celebrates 50 years of James Bond films with a look back at the franchise's vehicles, including the Aston Martin DB5 and the Lotus Esprit. Richard also talks to silver-screen 007s Daniel Craig and Roger Moore, goes behind the scenes on the latest Bond adventure Skyfall, and attempts to turn a Lotus into a fully working silver-screen car. (C)</p> <p>7.45 Dad's Army The vicar holds a Comfats for the Troops Fund bazaar at which Mainwaring finds himself bidding against Pike for a highly prized orange. The private reveals a stubborn streak that costs the thick-skinned captain an arm and a leg. Christmas edition of the classic comedy originally shown in 1976, starring Arthur Lowe and Ian Lavender. Last in the series. (C) (R)</p> <p>8.15 Blackadder's Christmas Carol It is Christmas Eve 1850, and the kindly Ebenezer Blackadder spends the festive season being taken advantage of by his relatives. When he is visited by the Spirit of Christmas, he gains an insight into the dastardly deeds of his ancestors. Comic reversal of the classic Dickens tale, starring Rowan Atkinson. (C) (R)</p> <p>9.00 The Choir: A Year with the Military Wives In February 2011, Gareth Malone went to Royal Marines Base Chivenor in Devon to set up a choir for the woman whose partners were away on active duty for months at a time. In this film, he goes back to the small chapel where he started the singing group, with key members reflecting on an experience that was meant to culminate in a performance at the Royal Albert Hall – but which actually led to something bigger. (C)</p> <p>10.00 QI XL Jingle Bells Extended edition of the comedy panel game, in which the questions are so difficult points are awarded for the answers host Stephen Fry finds most interesting. (C)</p> <p>10.45 The Sarah Millican Television Programme Xmas 2012 The award-winning comedienne hosts a special Christmas edition of her show, in which she delivers short stand-up routines inspired by festive TV. (C) (R)</p> <p>11.15 The Christmas No 1 Story The battle for the chart-topping festive single has always been hard fought. (C) (R)</p>	<p>6.00 Emmerdale A special hour-long episode. Cameron heads to the woods to bury the body after his second killing. Alicia sees Priya wearing the bracelet and confronts David, while Alicia discovers that she has been burgled. In a recent TV interview, Mark Charnock, who plays Marlon Dingle, explained that fans can expect a mix of comedy and drama in the show's festive edition. Charnock commented: "Our Christmas Day is a better this year. It's an absolute beller. It's also got some very, very good comedy in it, particularly from Charlotte Bellamy who plays Laurel. "There's some really funny stuff, but the drama's shocking!" (T)</p> <p>7.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs at Christmas The comedian follows the work of Battersea Dogs & Cats Home in London, meeting staff involved in treating, training and rehoming animals. A one-off special for the show which was a huge ratings winner when it ran through September and October. Paul, who is a fan of his furry friends, recently said, "I hate animal cruelty – it's just wrong and shows someone has no respect for life. We've got a responsibility to the animals we look after. I'm a member of Compassion in World Farming, which campaigns to improve conditions for farm animals. It's disgusting the conditions in which these creatures are shipped from Rungate over to Europe. If I were to go and picket, I would probably get arrested." (T)</p> <p>8.00 Coronation Street Has Santa been kind to the cast of Weatherfield? This is soap world, so what do you think? (C)</p> <p>9.00 Downton Abbey Costume drama set in an Edwardian country house, written by Oscar-winning writer Julian Fellowes. Starring Maggie Smith, Hugh Bonneville and Elizabeth McGovern. The Crawley family heads north to take a holiday in Scotland, leaving the servants behind at Downton. Drama, trauma and romance. (T)</p> <p>11.00 ITV News and Weather (T)</p> <p>11.15 Couples Retreat (2009) Premiere. Comedy, starring Vince Vaughn and Malin Akerman. Four couples settle into a tropical-island resort. While one of the couples is there to work on the marriage, the others fail to realize that participation in the resort's particular brand of therapy sessions is not optional. (T)</p>	<p>9.00 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special The host presents a festive edition of his talk show, joined by his house-band for the night. McFly, who perform a medley of their greatest hits. Chart toppers JLS join Alan on the sofa along with Dragons' Den star Hilary Devey, who talks about her two new programmes for Channel 4. Actor David Walliams also drops by to discuss new BBC family comedy Mr Stink, based on his children's book of the same name. Alan's father, Graham, had hoped Carr would be a footballer – after all, he'd been a footballer and manager, and his granddad had been a footballer, so there was a sense of inevitability. In a recent interview the funnyperson was asked if it was a macho family? "Yeah, definitely. And that was just my mother. Heeheeheehee!" The be-spectacled comedian cackled. (T)</p> <p>10.00 Friday Night Dinner Christmas Special The boys' other grandma ruins Christmas when she joins the family at the table for Mum's turkey dinner, accompanied by her equally horrible dog. She has the cheek to bring along her own food, knowing her daughter-in-law's cooking is not up to scratch, and gets into a fight with popular Grandma, to everyone's shock. Meanwhile, other dubious festive delights for the clan include Jim turning up dressed as Santa and Jonny giving Adam a joke present. (T)</p> <p>10.30 Rude Tube Christmas Special 2012 Series showcasing the most popular internet videos of all time, and interviewing some of the people who create them. Alex Zane presents the first Rude Tube Christmas special – a countdown of 50 Christmas-themed clips. Some are plain funny, others will make you cringe. (T)</p> <p>11.30 Channel 4's Greatest Comedy Moments If you haven't had your fill of great festive moments over on Five, this show takes a journey through the archive to serve up some vintage laughs. It's 30 years since the first channel launched and in that time it has been responsible for some classics. From Comic Strip Presents and beyond, there's a bound to be some gems. Expect to see memorable clips from such brilliant shows as Father Ted, Phoenix Nights, Max & Paddy and The Inbetweeners to name but a few. (T) (R)</p>	<p>6.00 Rolf's Animal Christmas Rolf Harris revisits some of the most memorable stories of the year from Rolf's Animal Clinic, a series that saw animals of all shapes and sizes receiving vital and often life-saving treatment. This festive special reveals how some of the patients fared after they returned home to their grateful owners following medical attention at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science campus at Leahurst in Cheshire.</p> <p>7.00 Eddie Stobart's Christmas Cracker Festive edition of the documentary following the company's trucks as they face one of their busiest times of the year. A hospital in Cambridge awaits the arrival of a huge Christmas tree to raise patients' spirits, while petal forecrops expect bumper fuel deliveries for those facing long drives home. A town in the north east of England is due a consignment of reindeer for their annual parade and on top of all that, the drivers must hit the right note for the company's charity Yuletide sing-along. 5 News Update (T)</p> <p>8.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsel As fierce blizzards grind much of the UK to a halt, the Eddie Stobart drivers struggle to transport 500,000 Christmas trees to garden centres in time for the start of the yuletide season. Meanwhile, a trucker in Wales risks being hijacked to deliver children's toys to a major retailer, and the chilled foods team takes on the massive challenge of shipping six million turkeys to the nation's butchers; 5 News at 9 (T)</p> <p>9.00 Eddie Stobart's Christmas Delivery Festive edition of the documentary series, in which the company's trucks face one of their busiest times of the year. Battling harsh winter conditions, they set out to ensure shops around the country receive their supply of Christmas trees, salt is delivered to councils and supermarket shelves are stocked with plenty of products.</p> <p>10.00 Greatest Christmas TV Moments Countdown of 50 festive crackers past and present, including classic soap moments, dramatic endings, sitcom specials, comedy sketches and light entertainment highlights that have made the television set the focus of the holiday season for decades. Expect to see the likes of Morecambe and Wise, EastEnders and Doctor Who.</p>
Late View	<p>12.00 FILM: Blades of Glory (2007) Loosening comedy. Starring Will Ferrell as part of an all-male ice-dancing couple. (C) HH 1.35 Weatherview (C) 1.40 BBC News 1.40 ABC World News with Diane Sawyer. Global news reports. 2.00 BBC News. 2.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 2.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 3.00 BBC News. 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 3.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 4.00 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 BBC News. (C)</p>	<p>12.15 TOTP2 Christmas 2012 (C) (R) 1.45 FILM: Film H 3.30 BBC News 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 3.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 4.00 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 BBC News. (C)</p>	<p>1.30 Christmas Carols on ITV (T) (R) 2.30 ITV Nightscreen 3.30 Pushing Daisies Anna Friel and Lee Pace star in the long-awaited hit US drama about pie-maker Ned, who can bring people back from the dead just by touching them, then send them to his mouth first. He has another poke of his finger. He decides to use his power to solve crime, bringing murder victims back to life so they can name their killers – but things get complicated when he resuscitates his childhood sweetheart and decides to let her stay alive, knowing they can never come into physical contact. (T) (R) 4.30 ITV Nightscreen</p>	<p>1.30 FILM: Airplane! (1980) Spoof disaster movie, starring Robert Hays. (T) HH-HH 3.00 David Blaine: What Is Magic? The illusionist performs amazing feats across America, impressing actor Orlando Bloom in New York, and seemingly catching a bullet in his mouth first in a 22-calibre gun. (T) (R) 3.30 KOTV Boxing Weekly Henry Lundy v Raymond Beltran. Action from the NABF Lightweight title bout at the Resorts Hotel & Casino in Atlantic City. (T) 3.55 International Volleyball A look back at the 2012 World League season, focusing on the teams aiming to make it through to the finals in Bulgaria. (T) 4.50 Extreme Sailing Series The conclusion of the 2011 season. (T)</p>	<p>12.50 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 4.00 House Doctor A country cottage in Worcestershire. (T) (R) 4.25 HouseBusters Life-enhancing changes to a home. (T) (R) 4.50 Great Artists The life and work of Pieter Bruegel the Elder. (T) (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge Michaela Strachan travels to South Africa where she encounters a whale 500 times her size, and Ellie Harrison tries to photograph one inside of a hippopotamus's mouth. (T) (R) 5.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge Ellie Harrison designs a bug detector. (T) (R)</p>

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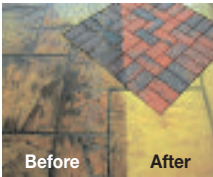
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CHRISTMAS TV

BOXING DAY

BBC1	BBC2	ITV1	Channel 4	Channel 5
<p>Mia Wasikowska stars in Alice in Wonderland, 7.20pm</p> <p>6.00 Breakfast Headlines and business news. (C) 9.00 TBA 10.35 FILM: TBA 12.10 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers Everyday cooking advice with the food writer. (C) (R) 12.40 BBC News (C) 12.55 Regional News: Weather. (C) 1.00 Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out The duo embark on their first adventure, taking a trip to the moon when their cheese supplies run out. Bafta-winning animation, with the voice of Peter Sallis. (C) (R) 1.25 FILM: Bolt (2008) The canine star of a TV show, who believes his on-screen adventures are real, tries to find his way home. Animated adventure, with the voices of John Travolta and Miley Cyrus. (C) 2.50 FILM: Enchanted (2007) A fairy-tale princess is magically transported from her cartoon world to modern-day New York. Part-animated, fantasy comedy, starring Amy Adams, James Marsden and Susan Sarandon. (C) 4.30 FILM: How to Train Your Dragon (2010) Premiere. A Viking boy longs to become a dragon slayer, but ends up befriending one of the giant flying lizards. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jay Baruchel and Gerard Butler. (C)</p>	<p>Sienna Miller is The Girl, based on the Tippi Hedren story</p> <p>7.00 CBeebies 9.00 The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart Exploring Africa's Great Rift Valley, which stretches for 3,000 miles from the Red Sea to the mouth of the Zambezi river and contains the world's widest array of wildlife. (C) (R) 10.00 Attenborough: 60 Years in the Wild David Attenborough looks back over his filmmaking career. (C) (R) 11.00 Darcey Bussell Dances Hollywood The former Royal Ballet star celebrates classic dance musicals. (C) (R) 12.30 John Wilson on Broadway Uncut Extended version of the BBC Proms performance of Broadway classics. (C) 2.40 FILM: An American in Paris (1951) A struggling American painter living in Paris is torn between two women — his wealthy patroness and an engaged Frenchwoman. Oscar-winning musical, with Gene Kelly and Leslie Caron. (C) 4.30 Final Score A round-up of this afternoon's results from the Premier League, Football League and Scotland. (C) 5.30 FILM: Miss Potter (2006) Victorian writer and illustrator Beatrix Potter falls in love while trying to find a publisher for her work. Biographical period drama, starring Renée Zellweger and Ewan McGregor. (C)</p>	<p>That Dog Can Dance... Ashley and Pudsey in action</p> <p>5.30 ITV Morning News (T) 6.00 ITV 9.25 FILM: The Railway Children (1970) Three Edwardian children are forced to move from London to rural Yorkshire after their father is wrongfully imprisoned. Period family drama, with Jenny Agutter and Bernard Cribbins. (T) 11.25 Dinner Date Matchmaking show in which contestants choose three blind dates based entirely on menus created by five potential partners. (T) 12.20 ITV News and Weather (T) 12.30 FILM: Land of the Lost (2009) An eccentric scientist and his two friends are transported into another dimension inhabited by dinosaurs. Comedy adventure, starring Will Ferrell, Anna Friel and Danny McBride. (T) 1.55 Local News and Weather (T) 2.25 The Spice Girls Story: Viva Forever! (T) (R) 3.55 FILM: Toy Story 2 (1999) Cowboy doll Woody is stolen by an unscrupulous toy collector, who knows he is worth a fortune as a collectible, prompting fearless Space Ranger Buzz Lightyear to lead a daring across-town mission to rescue him. However, Woody is tempted to spend his life languishing in the safety of a museum rather than face the prospect of his owner growing up. Animated sequel, featuring the voices of Tom Hanks, Tim Allen, Joan Cusack and Kelsey Grammer. (T) 3.59 Local Weather (T) 5.45 ITV News and Weather (T)</p>	<p>James Howson stars in the classic Wuthering Heights</p> <p>6.10 The Hoobs Groove goes to a fancy-dress party. (T) (R) 6.35 The Hoobs Groove feels down in the dumps. (T) (R) 7.00 Will & Grace Jack is nominated for an award. (T) (R) 7.30 According to Jim Dana is fixed up with a date. (T) (R) 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond Part two of two. Robert falls in love. (T) (R) 8.30 The Morning Line Racing preview. (T) 9.30 The Big Bang Theory Howard tells his mother he is engaged to Bernadette. (T) (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory Bernadette receives her PhD. (T) (R) 10.30 The Simpsons Moe becomes a successful poet with Lisa's help, and wins acclaim from a group of highbrow authors — but disappoints her by claiming all the credit for himself. (T) (R) 11.00 The Simpsons Homer is fired from the power plant and secures a job as an ice-cream man, but gets so wrapped up in his new career that he puts his marriage in jeopardy. (T) (R) 11.30 FILM: Horton Hears a Who! (2008) Animated comedy, featuring the voice of Jim Carrey. (T) (R) 11.55 Channel 4 Racing (T) 3.30 Deal or No Deal: Big Christmas Dinner Noel Edmonds hosts a seasonal edition of the game show. (T) 4.30 FILM: Edward Scissorhands (1990) Tim Burton's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp. (T)</p>	<p>Dynamo features in TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks</p> <p>6.00 Milkshake! 9.45 TBA 9.50 Dallas JR schemes to cut John Ross out of the Southfork deal by undermining one of his allies, while a blackmail threat leaves Rebecca facing a dilemma. (T) (R) 10.45 Once Upon a Time Emma's hopes of becoming sheriff are dashed when Mayor Regina appoints Sidney Glass, but then she receives an unexpected offer of help from Mr Gold. (T) (R) 11.40 FILM: The Greatest Story Ever Told (1965) The story of the life of Jesus, from His birth to eventual betrayal by disciple Judas Iscariot and His death by crucifixion. Biblical drama, with Max von Sydow and David McCallum. 4.10 FILM: Will You Merry Me? (2008) Premiere. A Christian man and his Jewish fiancée face a tense joint Christmas and Hanukkah, when their families meet for the first time. Comedy, with Tommy Lioutas and Vikki Kinsky. (T)</p>
<p>6.00 Mr Stink Family comedy based on the children's novel by David Walliams. Twelve-year-old Chloe has a lonely existence — her mother is too busy with her political ambitions to take any interest in her daughter, her hen-pecked dad is hiding a secret of his own and she cannot hope to compete with her 'perfect' younger sister — to say nothing of the nasty girls who make her school life a misery. So when she meets a tramp in need of somewhere to stay, she invites him to hide out in her family's garden shed — but it soon turns out there is more to her smelly guest than meets the eye. Downton Abbey's Hugh Bonneville stars, with Sheridan Smith, Johnny Vegas and Isabella Blake-Thomas, with an appearance from Britain's Got Talent winner Pudsey the dog. (C)</p> <p>7.00 BBC News: Weather. (C)</p> <p>7.15 Midlands Today: Weather. (C)</p> <p>7.20 Alice in Wonderland (2010) Premiere. A 19-year-old Alice returns to the magical land, having forgotten her previous adventures. She finds the tyrannical Red Queen has begun a reign of terror that can only be ended by slaying the monstrous Jabberwocky — a task she is seemingly destined to perform. Tim Burton's fantasy adventure based on Lewis Carroll's novels, starring Mia Wasikowska, Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter and Anne Hathaway. (C)</p> <p>9.00 EastEnders Derek's death has left a dark cloud over the Brannings, with Max insisting they check their stories before the police arrive. The atmosphere is strained between Alice and Roxy. (C)</p> <p>9.30 Miranda New series. The comedy series returns with a festive special that sees Penny threatening to cancel the joke-shop owner's Christmas if she can't manage to get her life in order. (C)</p> <p>10.00 Mrs Brown's Boys Having cast herself in the role of the Virgin Mary Agnes vows to make her retelling of the Nativity at the community centre unforgettable. (C)</p> <p>10.30 BBC News: Weather. (C)</p> <p>10.50 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws More fortunes are made. (C)</p> <p>11.00 Match of the Day Including highlights of Manchester United v Newcastle United. (C)</p>	<p>7.00 Are You Being Served? A classic British comedy still a hot today set in a department store. Young Mr Grace instructs everyone to wear fancy dresses in the run-up to Christmas, turning the departments into, fairly-tale grottos. Festive edition of the department store comedy from 1975. With a top rate cast including Harold Bennett, John Inman, Wendy Richard, Frank Thornton and Mollie Sugden. (C) (R)</p> <p>7.30 Morecambe & Wise: Song & Dance Sketches More crazy clowning from the oh so talented Eric and Ernie One to set the recorder for. (C) (R)</p> <p>8.30 Blackpool: Big Night Out Drama and true life social stories from the party resort of the north west coast. (C)</p> <p>9.30 The Girl Toby Jones and Sienna Miller star in this one-off drama based on the story of director Alfred Hitchcock's obsession with Tippi Hedren, leading lady of his 1963 thriller <i>The Birds</i>. The film-maker was at the height of his fame when he chose the Scandinavian fashion model to star in his latest thriller, sculpting her into the perfect blonde of his imagination. But before long, he became determined to win her love, a pursuit that would end in failure. Felicity Sturges and Penelope Wilton co-star. (C)</p> <p>11.00 Rebecca (1940) Romantic drama based on the novel by Daphne Du Maurier, with excellent performances by Laurence Olivier and Joan Fontaine. When a naive young woman marries a rich widower and settles into his gigantic mansion, she finds the memory of the first wife maintaining a grip on her husband and the servants and especially the sinister housekeeper. Directed by the legendary master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock, this deservedly won two Oscars. (b/w) (C)</p>	<p>6.00 Central Tonight: followed by Weather. (T)</p> <p>6.00 All Star Family Fortunes Game show, hosted by Vernon Kay. Well-known faces team up with their relatives and try to guess the answers to surveys of 100 people in a bid to reach the final round, in which they can win up to £30,000 for a charity of their choice. (T)</p> <p>7.00 Emmerdale Long-running soap set amid the rolling scenery of the Yorkshire Dales. (T)</p> <p>7.30 Coronation Street Weatherfield's families digress the fallout from another eventful Christmas Day. (T)</p> <p>8.00 That Dog Can Dance! Simon Cowell has always said he wanted a dancing dog act to win Britain's Got Talent, and this year it happened, with Ashleigh Butler and her pooch Pudsey triumphing in the competition. Now, he's bringing this one-off entertainment show to ITV1, in which five twinkle-toed contestants and their talented pets hope to impress Ashleigh and celebrity co-judges Sharon Osbourne and Bill Bailey. The hopefuls are battling for the chance to perform at Crufts 2013. Christine Bleakley hosts. (T)</p> <p>9.00 Dale's Great Getaway A fun-filled game show, hosted by Dale Winton, in which three families compete in a series of bonkers challenges from around the globe for the chance to win three very different prizes. (T)</p> <p>10.00 ITV News at Ten and Weather (T)</p> <p>10.15 The Holiday (2006) Two single women living on opposite sides of the Atlantic agree to exchange houses over the Christmas holidays. In their new surroundings, both women unexpectedly encounter prospective partners, but as the house swap draws to a close, difficult decisions have to be made about their blossoming relationships. Romantic comedy, starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jack Black, Jude Law and Eli Wallach. (T) (R)</p> <p>10.30 Local News and Weather (T)</p>	<p>6.30 Hollyoaks More from the Cheshire-based soap. Jacqui learns the full extent of Rhys's infidelity. Darren and Nancy struggle with their parenting bags, and Paul Browning plots to get Mercedes back in favour with the McQueens. (T)</p> <p>7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather. (T)</p> <p>7.05 4thought.vt Short films in which members of the public from all walks of spiritual life share their thoughts on religious and ethical issues, and reflect on events that have tested their beliefs. (T)</p> <p>7.10 Lord of the Rings: Two Towers Intro Setting up the night's big movie, the cast and crew talk about Peter Jackson's mammoth undertaking to adapt Tolkien's famous works. (T)</p> <p>7.15 The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002) Frodo and Sam continue their quest to destroy the all-powerful ring, bringing them face to face with the magical artefact's twisted former owner Gollum. Meanwhile, their allies prepare to make a desperate last stand against the vast armies of the corrupted wizard Saruman, who has declared war on a neighbouring kingdom. Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy, starring Elijah Wood, Sean Astin, Viggo Mortensen, Ian McKellen, Billy Boyd, Dominic Monaghan, Andy Serkis and Christopher Lee. (T)</p> <p>10.45 Wuthering Heights (2011) Another remake of the Emily Bronte novel. Premiere. A Yorkshire hill farmer takes pity on a homeless boy, and brings him back to his remote estate on the moors. The new arrival and the farmer's daughter develop an obsessive bond as they grow up, but he is ultimately cast out by her brother. He returns years later, seeking to be reunited with his lost love and to avenge himself on her family. An innovative 21st century take on the classic story, starring James Howson and Kaya Scodelario. (T)</p>	<p>6.00 Rolf's Animal Clinic Documentary following the work of staff at the University of Liverpool's School of Veterinary Science's campus at Leahurst in Cheshire. Presented by Rolf Harris.</p> <p>7.00 Eddie Stobart: Trucks, Trailers and Tinsels As fierce blizzards grind much of the UK to a halt, the Eddie Stobart drivers struggle to transport 50,000 Christmas trees to garden centres in time for the start of the yuletide season. Meanwhile, a trucker in Wales risks being hijacked to deliver children's toys to a major retailer, and the chilled foods team takes on the massive challenge of shipping six million turkeys to the nation's butchers. (T) 5 News Update (T)</p> <p>8.00 World's Biggest Pets Documentary about large animals romping through homes and neighbourhoods, including the world's tallest dog Giant George — who is the height of two average golden retrievers and weighs as much as 35 Yorkshire terriers. A man from Texas has devoted his life to his pet bison, which is the same size as a small family car, and a reptile fanatic from Newcastle shows off her Burmese python, which is capable of swallowing a human whole. 5 News at 9 (T)</p> <p>9.00 TV's 50 Greatest Magic Tricks TV illusionists have been saving ladies in half, catching bullets between their teeth, reading minds and performing feats of escapology for decades. Channel 5 counts down the best, including the astonishing stunts of Penn and Teller, the mind-bending of Derren Brown and the street magic of David Blaine. It features spectacular illusions, such as making the Statue of Liberty disappear, intimate card tricks and the lighter side of the business, thanks to the inclusion of comedy great Tommy Cooper. Paul Daniels and new kid on the block Dynamo also appear in this magic compendium, with contributions from Joe Pasquale, Dick and Dom, and Stephen Mulhern. (R)</p> <p>11.50 To be confirmed</p>
<p>12.30 FILM: Point Break (1991) Thriller, with Keanu Reeves and Patrick Swayze. (C) HHH 2.30 Weather (C) 2.35 BBC News 2.35 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 2.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 3.00 BBC News. 3.30 Asia Business Report. News from the markets. 3.45 Sport Today. News and results from around the world. 4.00 BBC News. 4.30 HARDtalk. Stephen Sackur talks to people making the headlines. 5.00 BBC News. 5.30 World Business Report. The latest business news, with informed analysis. 5.45 BBC News. (C)</p>	<p>1.05 Paul Merton Looks at Alfred Hitchcock The comedian analyses Hitchcock's classic British films, examining how these moody features — including <i>The Lodger</i> and <i>Blackmail</i> — provided the foundations for his rise to prominence as Hollywood's 'master of suspense'. Featuring rare archive footage of the film-maker and interviews with those who worked with him. (C) (R) 2.05 TBA 3.35 Close</p>	<p>12.45 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Chris Tarrant invites another line-up of contestants to answer questions that could change their lives — with lifelines Ask the Audience, Phone a Friend and 50-50 available to them if they get stuck. (T) (R) 1.45 FILM: Every Body Has Secrets (1978) Action comedy, starring Clint Eastwood. (T) HHH 3.50 ITV News Text-based information service.</p>	<p>12.45 Alan Carr: Chatty Man Christmas Special With Micky U.S. David Walliams and Hilary Devey. (T) (R) 1.45 FILM: Airplane II: The Sequel (1982) Disaster movie spoof sequel, with Robert Hays. (T) HH 3.25 The Good Wife The team defends a girl accused of murdering a summer camp five years previously, after the discovery that DNA evidence was mishandled by the crime lab. Matthew Perry guest stars. (T) 4.00 90210 Adriana takes Dixon to hospital after he collapses. (T) 4.40 Extreme Sailing Series Action from the international series. (T) 5.10 Deal or No Deal Another contestant hopes to win big money by guessing the value of numbered boxes — while the mysterious banker tries to make a deal. Noel Edmonds presents. (T) (R)</p>	<p>12.50 SuperCasino Viewers get the chance to take part in live interactive gaming, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. 4.00 House Doctor Kitchens and dining rooms. (T) (R) 4.25 HouseDoctors Life-enhancing changes to a home summer camp. (T) (R) 4.50 Great Artists The life of El Greco, one of the most distinctive painters of the 16th century, whose work paved the way for the baroque and provided the inspiration for 20th-century expressionism. (T) (R) 5.10 Michaela's Wild Challenge Elinor Danvers tries to out-climb an antelope. (T) (R) 5.35 Michaela's Wild Challenge Michaela Strachan tries to find out the age of an elephant. (T) (R)</p>

Late View

TOWN & COUNTRY

PROPERTY SERVICES



FREELAND GROVE KINGSWINFORD

An extremely well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location, accommodation comprises of Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from central heating, double glazing, front gravelled driveway affording off road parking, terraced rear garden and single detached garage/store no vehicular access.. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO Children: YES Pets: NO Smokers: NO

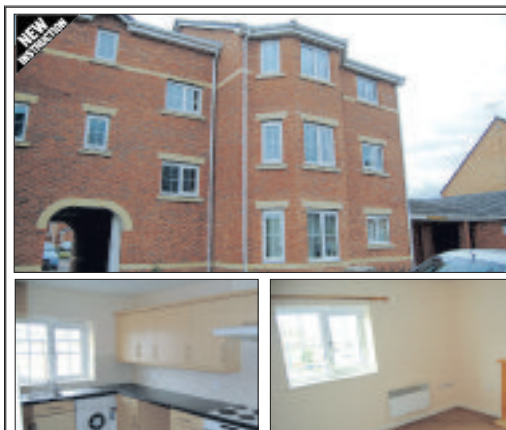
£595PCM



SYDNEY ROAD CRADLEY HEATH

A two bedroom end town house situated in a popular residential location and close to local shops and train station. The accommodation comprises of lounge, fitted kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing, rear garden and parking to the fore. VIEWING HIGHLY RECOMMENDED DSS: NO CHILDREN: MAY CONSIDER PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550PCM



SCOTT STREET GREAT BRIDGE

A Second Floor One bedroom Apartment in a popular modern development. Accommodation comprises Lounge, Kitchen with oven and hob, Bedroom and Bathroom with over bath shower. The Property further benefits from Double Glazing, Electric Heating and Allocated Parking. Unfurnished CHILDREN: No PETS: No SMOKERS: No DSS: No.

£425PCM



COTTAGE STREET KINGSWINFORD

A beautifully refurbished three bedroom semi detached property situated in a much sought after residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, entrance hall, lounge/diner, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed foregarden, private driveway, small enclosed rear garden and detached garage. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£650PCM



HIGH STREET WOLLASTON

A well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location close to the village of Wollaston. Accommodation comprises: Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Two Bedrooms and Bathroom with Shower. The property further benefits from gas central heating, front and rear gardens and driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED. DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS: NO

£580.00PCM



SANDYACRE WAY STOURBRIDGE

A modern three bedroom semi detached property situated in a much sought after residential location. Accommodation comprises of: entrance hall, cloakroom with WC, lounge, fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property is further enhanced by gas central heating, double glazing, large rear garden, single garage to the side and tarmac driveway affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO Children: YES Smokers: NO

£550PCM



LYNDHURST DRIVE WORDSLEY

A well presented two bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed rear garden and off road parking to the fore. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM



WESTFIELD ROAD QUARRY BANK

A well presented three bedroom traditional semi detached property situated in a quiet residential location with accommodation to comprise: Entrance hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, majority double glazing, rear garden and off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM



CHAPEL STREET LYE

A spacious three bedroom link detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, electric heating, enclosed rear garden with patio area and blocked paved driveway to the fore affording off road parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£500PCM



HIGH STREET HARBOURNE

A Spacious two bedroom first floor flat situated in a busy High Street location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, kitchen area, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, decked rear terrace and rear access with staircase to first floor. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

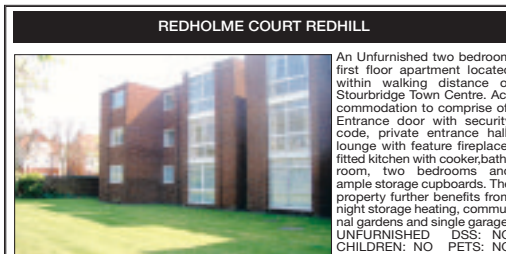
£495PCM



TIMES SQUARE MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented unfurnished one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. Accommodation comprises of Video entry system, entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

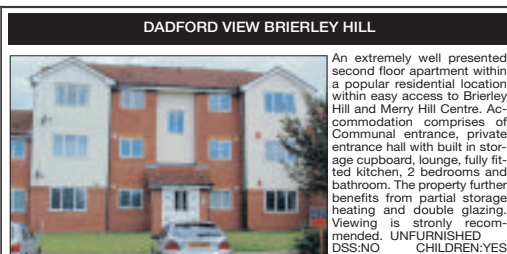
£495PCM



REDHOLME COURT REDHILL

An Unfurnished two bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance of Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation to comprise of: Entrance door with security code, private entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen with cooker/bathroom, two bedrooms and ample storage cupboards. The property further benefits from night storage heating, communal gardens and single garage. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£475PCM



DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented second floor apartment within a popular residential location within easy access to Brierley Hill and Merry Hill Centre. Accommodation comprises of Communal entrance, private entrance hall with built in storage cupboard, lounge, fully fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from partial storage heating and double glazing. Viewing is strongly recommended. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375

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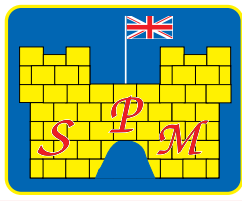
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A well presented One Bedroom first floor apartment. Located within three quarters of a mile of Oldbury town centre. The property benefits from a security intercom system to the ground floor entrance with a staircase leading to the first floor. The property comprises of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bedroom and Bathroom. The property also benefits from night storage and convector heating as well as Double Glazing and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£360PCM



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KINGSWINFORD

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KINGSWINFORD

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£595 pcm
 Semi Detached Bungalow, Lounge, Kitchen, Utility, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front & Rear Gardens

DUDLEY

DONNINGTON COURT
£550 pcm
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BRIERLEY HILL

FOXDALE DRIVE
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 Cluster Style Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Two Bedrooms, Allocated Parking, Double Glazing, Front Garden, Unfurnished

KINGSWINFORD

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STOURBRIDGE ROAD
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KINGSWINFORD

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KINGSWINFORD

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BRIERLEY HILL

DADFORD VIEW
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KINGSWINFORD

SANDHURST ROAD
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 Semi Detached Property, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Garage, Unfurnished

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On the ground floor the lounge, 15ft 9in by 13ft 2in, has a wooden surround fireplace, marble hearth and inset, coal effect gas fire and double doors to the dining room which is 10ft 10in by 8ft 8in and has French doors to the rear garden.

Inset

The breakfast kitchen, 10ft 9in by 11ft, has a range of fitted base and wall cupboards, work surfaces, inset stainless steel sink, display cabinets and gas cooker point.

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Skoda Superb – say no more

THERE will always be a market for huge, load and people carrying vehicles.

If we think back a few years it used to be the ubiquitous Volvo estate car that was the vehicle of choice by antique dealers, furniture restorers and people who needed to move huge amounts of kit and equipment.

Now entering the market place is Skoda with the Superb, and they really have capitalised on this particular market. If your family or business needs a vehicle capable of moving huge amounts of equipment or people or both, then the Superb has to feature highly

on your list. The Superb has a huge 595 litres of space in the boot and believe me that is a serious amount of space; if you drop the seats that increases to a staggering 1700 litres.

Rear passengers will be over the moon with the amount of room; it is like driving and riding in a limousine. As a six footer with my wife driving the vehicle I was able to fully stretch my legs out in front of me and there were still 7 or 8 inches of free space. I am convinced I could put a washing machine or a spin dryer on the floor behind the driver's seat, such is the huge space aspect of the Superb.

The Superb looks quite an attractive vehicle, yes it is big, but that is what it is designed to be.

As with all Skodas there are a wide choice of engine derivatives. Petrol choices vary from a diminutive 1.4 litre up to a huge V6 3.6-litre 4 x 4 option. If diesel is the one that does it for you then the Superb is available starting with a 1.6-litre TDi producing 105 bhp which was the unit fitted to my test car and then there are a variable number of 2-litre TDi's with various power outputs and also a 4 x 4 option.

Being Skoda you expect value for money as well as a well built and engineered vehicle and the Superb did not disappoint. The Elegance Green line that I had the option of testing is a well equipped vehicle for its £24,390 recommended price. It had 16" alloy wheels, leather covered steering wheel with multi-functions which included controls for the radio, telephone and sound system, which is always useful. The front seats were electrically operated and have a very useful feature of a memory button, one of those items that you wonder how you ever managed without once you have become used to it. The front seats were also heated.

The vehicle has a stop/start system to both lower the CO and increase the fuel per gallon, a feature of the Green Line derivative. The 1.6-litre turbo charged diesel engine is allegedly producing in the region of 105 bhp which considering the size of the vehicle was more than adequate for all conditions and driving situa-

tions. A 5-speed manual box was a delight to operate, being positive and not sloppy or wishy washy in any of the situations that driving demands. The performance was more than adequate for my needs, Skoda claim a top speed of 119 mph and they suggest a 0-60 gallop can be achieved in marginally over 12 ½ seconds. The feature that is impressive however is that Skoda claims a combined figure of 64.2 mpg.

Astonishment

We all take these figures with a pinch of salt but to my astonishment in a week of varied terrain driving in Somerset including motorways, big dual carriageways and twisty roads, the computer told me that I had actually achieved 60.2 mpg, a fabulous result for a vehicle of this size. The low CO figure of 114 gm/kgs means a nil rated first year excise duty and then a mere £30 in the second year.

The vehicle never felt daunting or large to actually drive, yes you needed to be a little careful when you park.

Suddenly the size of the vehicle could be intimidating when manoeuvring into parking bays and you certainly need to be careful at supermarkets, where there are clearly defined bays where you to tuck in the vehicle correctly so as not to incur a fixed penalty, for having the front nose or rear section marginally over the white line. But if it was your vehicle you would

soon get used to that. The Superb range available is quite extensive, they start with an S, which is the entry level vehicle, but again the level of specification even on an S is quite high, with alloy wheels, air con and an 8-speaker sound system, an alarm is also incorporated, so the basic entry vehicle is quite good. The specifications increase with an SE, SE Plus, and the top specification was the Elegance.



A low CO figure of 114 gm/kgs means a nil-rated first year excise duty



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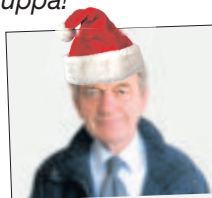
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Every film buff's dream – the one-off Juke can only be won through the Nissan competition

Holy Nissan Batman! Win a Dark Knight Juke Nismo

A BATMAN-inspired one-off Nissan Juke is to be offered as a prize to one lucky competition winner.

Based on the 2013 Juke Nismo, The Dark Knight Rises Juke Nismo is a film lover's dream come true, with matt black paint reminiscent of Batman's 'tumbler' and special 'bat' detailing, including bat signal projectors.

The special Juke Nismo was designed by Nissan Design Europe in London's Paddington to celebrate the company's relationship with Warner Bros – and, of course, the DVD release of The Dark Knight Rises.

Under the skin, the car uses the same 197bhp turbocharged 1.6-litre

engine as the standard Juke Nismo, which is already a range-topping model.

A six-speed manual gearbox is the way Batman would want it if he was looking for a (non-bulletproof) road car, while a 0-62mph time of 7.8 seconds is enough to keep most things in its rear-view mirror.

A Nismo body kit, uprated suspension and a sleeker 'shark fin' antenna replace the standard items. Dual Nismo and aluminium bat badges appear on the front grille and tailgate, the latter of which are reflective.

Black 18in alloy wheels have red detailing, too, but perhaps the best bit of detailing is that the puddle lamps

mounted in the undersides of the door mirrors project the superhero's bat symbol down on to the ground beside the car, while the same signal is projected on to the head lining inside the car thanks to an interior uplighter.

Sadly The Dark Knight Rises Juke Nismo won't be appearing in any dealership, and it won't even be sold to the highest bidder.

Anyone can win it by entering a competition at www.builttothrill.co.uk with entries accepted until the end of February.

Meanwhile, the Juke Nismo is set to arrive in showrooms in March, with order books opening in January.

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Early lead but away trip ends in defeat

Caldy 37 Dudley K'ford 6
DUDLEY Kingswinford returned empty-handed from their first trip to Caldly for 10 years.

They took an early 6-0 lead, despite losing fly-half Gareth Bown to injury after four minutes but 17 points for the Wirral club's fly-half, Richard Vasey, meant there was no reward for DK in this National Two North game.

Kicking off, DK immediately found themselves under pressure as Bown's kick found touch. But the first scrum gave hope for DK as they not only held but pushed back the Caldly pack.

Bown jarred his knee and had to go off, bringing Rhys Pritchard into the fly-half position on four minutes.

A DK turnover was seized by Duncan Chance for a good break. Caldly went over the top, gifting Jon Higgins the chance to slot a penalty.

On 10 minutes a Nicholas Murphy charge drew a penalty for Higgins to push the lead to six points.

Caldly's scrum-half James Smith chipped into the DK 22-metre area and won a penalty for not rolling away. Vasey cut the arrears.

Sliced
As Caldly's backs began to find gaps, Smith slipped the ball to Gavin Roberts who sliced open the DK defence for a try, which Vasey converted for a 10-6 lead.

DK were frustrated by repeated infringements by home forwards which finally led to a yellow card for lock Jon Sewell on 31 minutes.

Vasey was gifted an easy penalty on 44 minutes after Caldly's JJ Dickinson made 40 metres and was pulled down just short of the line.

The game turned on 56 minutes as Stefan Shillingford was yellow-carded for not rolling away after a tackle and Vasey's penalty made it 16-6.

DK got into the Caldly half but poor handling cost them chances. Caldly took advantage of the missing player and on 61 minutes Roberts touched down under the posts. Vasey converted to make it 23-6.

With Shillingford back on, DK tried to use their backs to make ground but a knock-on in midfield let Roberts pick up and score his third with Vasey converting.

The final score came when Smith took a short 22 drop-out and fed Dickinson to sprint some 60 metres to touch down in the corner. Vasey converted from wide out to round off the scoring.

Robins return for revenge over 8-0 loss

Shifnal Town 0 Dudley Town 3

DUDLEY TOWN eased to their sixth victory in the last seven West Midlands Premier games.

Dudley were on the wrong end of an 8-0 thumping at Shifnal last season but this performance was at the other end of the spectrum.

The Robins disposed of Bartley Green 5-1 seven days earlier and began their latest match where they left off the previous one.

Inside two minutes a Danny Ludlow corner was knocked on by Grant Joshua and Ross Love headed into the roof of Chris Worrall's net.

The Black Country visitors dom-

inated proceedings and were unlucky on several occasions not to extend their lead.

Geoff Hill came close twice, probably needing to do better on 30 minutes as he dragged a shot across the face of goal.

Ludlow fired in a powerful free-kick that only just cleared the Shifnal crossbar.

Despite their dominance Dudley had to wait until the 38th minute to deservedly extend their lead.

A beautiful curved pass from Joshua deceived the Shropshire

club's defence, allowing Dreniz Bala plenty of space to round Worrall and tap into the empty net.

There was one small scare for Dudley just before half-time when keeper Aaron O'Malley landed awkwardly in claiming a Shifnal corner.

Having recovered, this was the former Bradford City shot-stopper's only real action of what was a commanding first-half display from the Robins.

Dudley came out after half-time hungry to extend the advantage

and came close on 52 minutes when Brett McGilligan fired a shot just over.

The hosts then made changes which dragged them back into the game.

Dan Beddowes replaced Sean Powell, and it was the substitute who forced a fine save from the increasingly impressive O'Malley.

But Shifnal could not find a killer touch and soon the Robins were back in control.

Dudley almost increased their lead when a fearsome McGilligan shot went just over, while a fine run from debutant substitute Tom

Gadd fed in Hill who was unlucky when his powerful strike was well blocked by Worrall.

They got their third in slightly controversial circumstances.

A huge appeal for offside was rejected by referee Scott Simpson and it allowed an unchallenged run in on goal for Bala, who again rounded Worrall and tapped home for his second of the afternoon.

Shifnal Town: Worrall, Evans, Dumbrell, L Jones (Ellis), J Jones, Davies, Knowles, Powell (Beddowes), Reynolds, McAuley, Coney. **Subs not used:** Love, Russell, Gardener.

Dudley Town: O'Malley, Edmunds, Watkins, Love, Perry, Gardner (Gadd), Joshua, McGilligan, Hill, Bala, Ludlow. **Subs not used:** Whitley, Taylor.

Saxons turn on style to lead table by 18 points

Stourbridge Saxons 52 Westoe 5
A YOUTHFUL Westoe side made the long trip from South Shields but were offered little festive cheer as the Saxons turned on the style to run in eight tries.

Saturday's match marked the halfway point of a season in which Stourbridge have now recorded an unprecedented full house of 15 bonus-point victories to sit 18 points clear of their nearest challengers in National League Two North.

The first try was direct from the kick-off, Saxons advancing in high-tempo phases, with skipper Ben Hughes scoring from centre Will Hurrell's long cut-out pass as Westoe's left touch-line defence was outflanked.

In almost the same spot full-back Sam Baker scored from an overlap created by flanker James Rodley's entry into the backline.

Scorched
Scrum-half Pete White saw a mismatch as Saxons worked the phases near Westoe's 22 and scorched home.

Saxons got themselves drawn into Westoe's forward-oriented game for 20 minutes – and a scoreless stalemate.

At the end of the first half they drove Westoe off their scrum ball to set up an attacking line-out, a short drive and neat pass from hooker Dale Garner putting second row Hughes over.

Tighthead prop Mark George scored in the second half after an offload from second row Robbie Hurrell, though an off-the-ball skirmish then cost Will Hurrell

Stourbridge Saxons

and his opposite number a sin bin spell. A penalty for a late hit on Baker let Saxons set up another line-out from which league top try scorer Drew Harper went over at the base of a driving maul.

Ex-Oldswinford Hospital back rower Ed Garbett replaced Harper for his debut but Westoe drove over a short-range maul.

A break and offload by winger Stefan Cooksammy set up a try for replacement hooker Jordan Page before Hughes put in his third line-out steal of the afternoon.

The ball went right where Jamie Hearn's entry into the line created space for Nathan Bressington's 55m run-in. Hearn's quick conversion secured another minute of play in which man-of-the-match Sione Tu'ipolotu put Cooksammy through only to be called back for a forward pass.

With Hearn packing his kicking boots again all but two tries were converted, for a final score of 52-5.



Sam Baker holds off a defender to cross for the second Stourbridge try



Stefan Cooksammy tries to shrug off a Westoe tackler



Robbie Hurrell sees the funny side



Ben Hughes strides in to score the first Saxons try against Westoe

New-look Heathens to target play-offs

HEATHENS team boss Will Pottinger says a play-off place is once again the target for his new-look Dudley side.

The former Cradley club, who will unveil a fourth signing at its Christmas party tomorrow, have released five of the seven who took them to the verge of league title glory last season.

Dan Greenwood and new skipper Ashley Morris are the only survivors – with Lewis Blackbird, Max Clegg and Nathan Greaves joining them in the line-up.

The sixth team member will be at Cradley Heath Liberal Club to meet supporters tomorrow, when the new 2013 race jacket will also be unveiled.

Pottinger says he's delighted with how the team has been revamped.

"The team building has gone quite well over the winter," he said. "Obviously we're disappointed to lose as many of last season's team as we have, but we felt it was necessary for us to be competitive next season."

"I think the riders that we've signed are all capable of improving – especially Lewis Blackbird who is a bargain on that average."

"He's going to improve that no doubt, then we should have good strength at reserve with Max Clegg and Nathan Greaves."

"They are both going to be 15 at the start of the season so I'm very excited to work with them and see them progress over the course of the year."

"Of course we've kept Dan Greenwood, because we can see he has a lot of potential as well. He raced most of the season in the main body of the team after returning."

Prizefighter is back in the city

PRIZEFIGHTER returns to Wolverhampton Civic Hall next month – a day after two boxing title fights in Walsall.

Matchroom Boxing had an eight-man light-welter tournament at the Civic in February. Welterweights fight on Saturday, January 19.

Confirmed is Birmingham's Nasser Al Harbi and prospects Dale Evans, Glenn Foot and Chad Gaynor. The night before, Rowley Regis' Jason Welborn challenges British welterweight champion Frankie Gavin at Walsall Town Hall while Walsall's Martin Gethin goes for the vacant British lightweight title.




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SPORT

All smiles
It's perfect so far
for the Saxons
Page 35



Target set
Heathens want
play-offs again
Page 35



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Hearsey hits five in Sports goal glut

Dudley Sports 8 Pegasus 0
DUDLEY SPORTS hit eight goals with a pulsating performance against Pegasus. Sports ran riot in the first half of the West Midlands Premier game, hitting six goals as Pegasus had no answer to the home side's fast-flowing attacking play.

On five minutes Luke Williams curled a beauty into the top corner from 25 yards.

Olly Butler made it two in the 15th minute, finishing from eight yards after a Matt Hearsey cross.

Then it became the Hearsey show as he turned the Pegasus defence inside out while helping himself to the next four goals.

All were similar as he out-paced the defenders before finishing crisply.

Sports started the second half as they finished the first – on the attack – and the seventh goal soon arrived, with Hearsey running from the halfway line before hammering the ball past the advancing goalkeeper.

Butler completed the scoring when he netted from the edge of the box after good work from Mark Gore.

Results: Bilbrook South U9 10 Dudley Sports East U9 0, Dudley Sports West U10 2 (Connor Hughes 2) Bilbrook North U10 2, Dudley Sports Dynamos U14 2 (Liam Cullen, George Taylor) Dudley Juniors U14 1, Evesham U11 Girls 1 Dudley Sports U11 Girls 10 (Kirsty Hampton 3, Katie Smith 3, Hannah Fellows 2, Kelly Nicklin 2), Santiago Ladies 3, Dudley Sports Ladies 1 (Chole Gwilliams).

Hard work in 52-5 victory

STOURBRIDGE SAXONS coach Mike Umaga says they laboured to a 52-5 victory over Westoe.

"We made hard work of it, though we'd secured the bonus point by half-time and kept our shape and ambition as conditions deteriorated," he said as Stourbridge head National Two League North with bonus-point victories in all league games.

"It's nice to be halfway through the season with maximum league points and a full squad available," said Umaga. "I'm particularly pleased with way the younger players like Ed are learning from the senior guys in the squad – they have all made an impact when they've played."

"Dudley this week will be a tough place to go though, they'll be looking to turn us over so there will be no taking our foot off the gas."

Match report – Page 35

World debut comes to swift end

BRIERLEY HILL'S Mark Jones saw his debut in the PDC world darts championship come to an abrupt end with a first-round defeat to Brendan Dolan, **writes Craig Birch**.

Playing on television for only the second time, Jones lost 3-0 to the Northern Irishman at the Alexandra Palace in London.

Dolan dropped only one leg over the three sets and appeared to show no ill-effects following a sickness bug that laid him low through the previous week.

Jones hit a 180 on the way but Dolan

Darts

hit four maximums of his own. Jones' solitary success came when he took the first leg of the second set, going out on double eight.

But Dolan battled back to secure victory by winning the next six legs and sealed the win with an impressive 120 finish to secure his passage.

Dolan now tackles Raymond van Barneveld in the second round of the tournament.

Wolverhampton's Wayne Jones was also dumped out at the first hurdle

when he suffered defeat at the hands of Jerry Hendriks.

Jones lost 3-0 to Hendriks, who was playing in the competition for the first time, at the Alexandra Palace in London on Saturday afternoon.

Black Country followers watched in dismay on Sky Sports as 'the Wanderer' was eliminated by losing all three sets 3-2 to the Dutch newcomer.

Hendriks battled back from 2-1 down in the last set to secure victory in style with finishes of 116 and 156. He plays Phil Taylor in the second round tomorrow.



Mark Jones goes out to Brendan Dolan in round one
Picture: Lawrence Lustig/PDC

Fair draw as United see lead go twice

Causeway United 2 Kirby Muxloe 2

A DRAW was probably a fair result in a Midland Alliance game with a scrappy first half but entertaining second.

The main first half incident was a 26th minute goal for the Stourbridge-based side as Scott Stevenson got the ball in space and took it around the advancing Kirby goalkeeper, before squaring for Stuart How to volley in.

How's goal made up for two earlier chances the striker fluffed. For the mid-table visitors, Stuart Verrall should have equalised just after the opening goal but put his shot wide.

Volley
That was the Leicester-shire side's only real chance of the half but they woke up in the second period.

Aaron Preston put a shot wide before Karl Wilson crossed for Verrall to acrobatically volley home on 67 minutes.

Two minutes later, Craig Gregg did the same from an Adam Meacham cross to regain the lead.

On 76 minutes, though, the visitors earned a point when a free-kick was headed on by Verrall for Brett Darby to score from close range.

Causeway, sitting 16th in the table, host Alvechurch in their next league fixture on Saturday.

■ Waterlogged pitches saw several Alliance fixtures postponed at the weekend.

Among the casualties were Gornal Athletic at home to Loughborough University, Tividale at home to Boldmere St Michaels, Tipton away to Heath Hayes and Stourport Swifts' visit to Ellesmere Rangers.

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DEFLECTED EFFORT ENOUGH FOR WIN

Bashley 0 Stourbridge 1
SEAN EVANS' deflected shot 18 minutes from time was enough to give Stourbridge a deserved first win at Bashley.

Stourbridge, playing up the slope in the first period, started promisingly and had the first clear chance on nine minutes when Luke Benbow slipped the ball through into the run of Ben Billingham, but his low shot was blocked by the outstretched leg of Bashley keeper Stuart Moore.

Soon after, only intervention at the post by defender Elliot Wheeler prevented Glassboys' Evans getting to a low cross from the right by Drew Canavan.

In the 35th minute of the Evo-Stik Southern Premier game Gavin Hurren played the ball forward, Benbow got the better of Ian Richardson but he blazed off-target.

Paul McCone was dispossessed just outside the Glassboys' box two minutes later. Wheeler fed Mark Gamble to deliver a deep cross for Ian Oliver to head against the bar.

Dominance

Gary Hackett's men used the slope after the restart to hold the ascendancy for good spells but it took time for their dominance to pay off.

In the 51st minute Evans, Billingham and Benbow combined well with Moore saving at Evans' feet after a Benbow pass.

A minute later Benbow hooked the ball on to Billingham who cut in from the byline for a left-foot shot heading wide. Benbow got his head to it but the ball hit the post.

Moments later Benbow hit the base of the post with a low shot on the turn before Bashley hit back in the 57th minute with a strong run forward by Wheeler, but he hit his shot wide.

Stourbridge FC

The deadlock was finally broken in the 72nd minute.

Evans linked up with Billingham, who slipped a reverse pass through to the overlapping Evans.

His shot from the left-hand side of the area took a deflection off Tim Stephenson to leave Moore wrong-footed as the ball flew in at his near post.

Nathan Bennett went close to making it two on 79 minutes with a header from Sean Geddes' left-wing free-kick that was creeping in before Moore clawed the ball away.

Stourbridge then had the chance to secure victory as a Geddes header put Benbow in the clear, but he pushed his side-foot finish wide of Moore's left-hand post.

Instead, some late home pressure in stoppage time might have yielded an equaliser for Bashley with a 20-yard drive from Stoke taking a deflection that had Lewis Solly beaten, but the ball flew wide of the goal.

From the corner Charlie Knight got in a header on goal through a mass of bodies that appeared to hit the flailing arm of Lee Osborne on the line. But the referee turned down home penalty appeals.

Morgan gets her marching orders in title bout



Victoria Morgan, left, tries to slip a shot past the high guard of Nikita Sivera in the ABA finals at Cannock

VICTORIA MORGAN suffered heart-break in the national final of the female ABA competition with a points defeat to Army opponent Nikita Sivera.

Morgan, who boxes for Lions Amateur Boxing Club, Dudley, made the short trip to Cannock Chase High

School to compete on Sunday afternoon. And the 29-year-old was second best with the judges in the 71kg final of Class C, for girls who have had up to five bouts, after the three rounds.

The first two sessions were fairly even with both fighters trading blows,

but Sivera stepped up in the last round and that's what gained her the nod with the judges.

Clean and crisp work gave her the title and left Morgan defeated in their debut year and first fight in the competition, after a series of byes.

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